FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

26 FEBRUARY 1987

Lebanon

Syrian commander Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an repeated to AFP that there are no plans for his troops to take control of Beirut's Shi'ite southern suburb. Gen Kan'an regretted the deaths of some 23 Hizballah members in the Al-Bastah area, but again stressed that armed militiamen will not be allowed to roam the streets. In his address at the mass funeral, Hizballah leader Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah demanded that those responsible for the deaths be brought to trial and warned against a recurrence of such action in the name of the security plan, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. According to the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon, the Fathallah Martyrs Forces threatened Prime Minister Rashid Karami and others seen as responsible for the Syrians' presence with "grave consequences." The self-proclaimed Lebanese Liberation Organization claimed responsibility for a car-bomb explosion aimed at the Syrian headquarters in the Al-Rasul Mosque area, the clandestine revealed. A number of Syrian soldiers were killed, and 17 civilians were wounded, the radio said.

In other reaction against the Syrian presence, Yasir 'Arafat warned of the "dangerous possibilities" of the Syrian deployment around the Palestinian camps and deplored the troops' "criminal actions," Baghdad Voice of the PLO reported. A PLO statement carried by the same radio termed 25 February "the day of bodies" in Beirut, noting that 19 corpses of "Palestinians and Lebanese citizens" were collected from the streets.

The security situation improved when gunmen withdrew as the Lebanese Army took up positions along Beirut contact lines, Beirut radio announced. The Education Ministry directed all goverment schools in West Beirut to reopen 26 February, according to Damascus radio.

Iran-Iraq War

Iranian forces achieved "outstanding victories" in a "two-pronged thrust" against enemy positions east of Basra and north of the Shalamcheh-Basra road, IRNA announced. According to a military statement cited by the agency, the Iraqis suffered 2,000 casualties and were unsuccessful in their attempts to mount a counterattack. A communique reported by IRNA noted that Iranian warplanes "heavily bombed" military targets near Basra. An Iraqi communique carried by Voice of the Masses radio said that Iraqi soldiers wiped out "large groups" of enemy soldiers in the III Army Corps sector and accused Iran of shelling residential areas of Basra.

In remarks cited by IRNA, Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani praised the preparedness of Iran's missile units and declared that Iran has the capability to "put Baghdad under pressure and deprive it of security."

DRA

PDPA Secretary General Najibullah invited opposition groups to discuss "specific proposals" for a "government of national unity," in a statement broadcast by Kabul radio. Najibullah stressed that the DRA's policy of reconciliation has "opened the door to everyone" and will not be "influenced by provocations." Referring to the convening of the seventh round of talks between Afghanistan and Pakistan in Geneva, Najibullah declared his optimism that "important questions" may be resolved.

The opposition Islamic Alliance meeting in Peshawar, Pakistan, issued a 4-point resolution promising "safe and secure treatment" for supporters of the Kabul regime who lay down the arms when the Soviet troops withdraw, AFP reported. The alliance also promised that all Afghans would be able to participate in electing an "Islamic government."

Israel

In remarks broadcast by Jerusalem radio, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir declared that his 9-day visit to the United States was "marked by an incredibly friendly atmosphere" and that "unanimity" characterized his official talks in Washington during which friendship and cooperation were further strenthened. Referring to Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' visit to Egypt, Shamir reiterated that Peres has no authority to commit Israel on the subject of an international conference on the Mideast.

Egypt

President Husni Mubarak received Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres for talks 26 February, MENA reported. The Israeli foreign minister was also received by Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi. According to the agency, the previous day's discussions between Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid and his Israeli counterpart focused on bilateral relations and ways to promote the Mideast peace process, including the issue of an international conference.

Officials from the Soviet UN Association ended an 8-day visit during which they met with Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, and their Egyptian counterparts, MENA reported. According to TASS, the two UN associations issued a communique calling for an international Mideast conference with the participation of the PLO. During a stopover in Cairo, Suleyman Tatliyev, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, told MENA that his country is satisfied with the "positive progress" in Soviet-Egyptian relations.

Sudan

Idris al-Banna, deputy chairman of the State Council, called for the Soviet Union to mediate an end to the conflict in the south, SUNA reported. Al-Banna made his request at a predeparture press conference by Suleyman Tatliyev, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and head of a Soviet parliamentary delegation. In remarks cited by the agency, Tatliyev declared that his delegation's 10-day visit had contributed to the normalization of bilateral relations. He added that a group of Soviet officials are in Sudan to discuss "rehabilitating and modernizing" various Soviet-aided projects.

Libya

People's Congress — The 12th Ordinary Session of the General People's Congress opened in Sabha, JANA reported. Items on the agenda include reports on various public sectors, as well as consideration of the budget and the court system. During its discussions on foreign policy, the congress will take up the U.S. presence in the Mediterranean and its effect on Libya's relations with other countries, especially Italy, the agency noted.

Bombing in Chad — According to Ndjamena radio, Libyan warplanes carried out "savage and blind air raids" on Fada 24 February.

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PLO Reaction to Syrian Deployment in W. Beirut

'Arafat Holds News Conference

JN251526 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1452 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Feb (INA) — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has stated that the entry of Syrian forces into Lebanon aims at liquidating the PLO and at terminating the Palestinian camps in Lebanon. At a news conference held here today, 'Arafat described the entry of these forces into Lebanon as a part of the Hafiz al-Asad regime's evil intentions toward the Palestinian people in Lebanon and a completion of the work that the Amal gangs failed to carry out against the Palestinian camps.

'Arafat disclosed that Syrian forces have arrested between 400 to 500 Palestinian and Lebanese, including 70 commanders. All these were moved to centers affiliated with the Amal gangs.

'Arafat noted that the Syrian forces have stolen donations given by many sides to the Palestinian people who are besieged in the Beirut camps and who are living under tragic conditions because of the siege and because of the shelling of their residential areas, which resulted in the killing of many children, women, and old men. 'Arafat noted that the UNRWA has failed to deliver food and medicine to the Burj al-Barajinah camp because Syrian forces and the Amal gangs prevented it from doing so.

'Arafat also condemned the annihilation campaign practiced by the Syrian regime and the Amal gangs against the Palestinian camps in Lebanon by imposing a siege upon them.

Claims U.S. 'Approval' for Move

JN252041 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1815 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Abu 'Ammar warned of the dangerous developments in Lebanon, whose results have begun to reflect the criminal actions against our Palestinian people there. He also pointed out that the Syrian forces took 70 Palestinians out of the 400 Palestinian and Lebanese detainees in the Amal Movement's main jails. He also said the Amal gangs' siege around the camps is continuing depite the Syrian forces' entry, which the Syrian regime claims is aimed at achieving security and stability.

Abu 'Ammar also disclosed information confirming U.S. and Israeli approval of the Syrian intervention in Lebanon. Abu 'Ammar also answered questions on this issue, affirming that the plot against the Palestinian presence in Lebanon is continuing fiercely and bloodily and that the Palestinians defending the steadfast camps will not allow this plot to succeed.

PLO Issues Statement

JN251953 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1815 GMT 25 Feb 87

["Text" of PLO statement issued on 25 February]

[Text] Ever since the Damascus regime deployed its forces in Beirut, these forces have been forging the last link in the conspiracy following the failure of the [Lebanese Army's] 6th and 1st Brigades, the Amal gangs, and Syrian intelligence to carry it out. In Beirut, today is called the day of bodies. Around 19 bodies of Palestinian and Lebanese citizens were collected from Beirut streets. Five Palestinian bodies, including the bodies of Palestine National Salvation Front members, were identified. These people were arrested along with other people by the Syrian forces, which liquidated them and dumped their bodies in various parts of Beirut. These forces also arrested large numbers of Palestinians and Lebanese whose fates are not yet known.

Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, chief of security and surveillance of the Syrian forces in Lebanon, implicitly admitted in his statements today that these crimes had been committed. As we have previously announced, approximately 450 Palestinian and Lebanese detainees are exposed to danger because the Syrian forces supervised the transportation of these detainees in Syrian cars from Burj al-Murr to the new jails.

At the same time, the shelling and aggression against the Sabra, Shatila, and Burj al-Barajinah camps continue. The siege is also continuing. The Syrian forces prevented UNRWA cars from entering the Palestinian camps for the 3d consecutive day despite the false promises of the Syrian Foreign Ministry to the UNRWA representative to allow food and medical supplies to enter the besieged camps.

'Arafat Briefs Socialist Envoys on Beirut Events

JN252000 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1815 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] received the socialist countries' ambassadors to Iraq in Baghdad today. During the meeting, Abu 'Ammar briefed them on the current situation in West Beirut following the large-scale interference of Syrian forces, their deployment near the Palestinian camps, and the danger posed by this deployment to the camps, which are still besieged despite the Syrian pretext of achieving security and applying its new plan.

Abu 'Ammar asked the ambassadors to inform their leaders of these developments so they can take effective action to protect the Palestinian camps from the dangers of destruction and annihilation. The meeting was attended by PLO representative in Iraq Brother 'Azzam al-Ahmad.

QNA: PLO's Hani al-Hasan Leaves Amman 25 Feb

JN251401 Doha QNA in Arabic 1300 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] Amman, 25 Feb (QNA) — Hani al-Hasan, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser, left Amman today following an 11-day visit to Jordan. Al-Hasan participated in the meetings of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee to support the steadfastness of people in the occupied territory.

Algeria's Messaadia Meets Palestinian Officials

LD260026 Algiers APS in English 1033 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] Algiers, 25 Feb (APS) — The ongoing dialogue for the unity of Palestinian ranks, the meeting of the Palestine National Council at the initiative of President Chadli Bendjedid and the latest developments on the Palestinian scene were the main axes of talks held between the head of the FLN party CC permanent secretariat, Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, and a group of Palestinian leaders presently visiting Algiera in the frame of efforts aimed at unifying and consolidating Palestinian ranks. Talks were attended by the secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, Nayif Hawatimah, the deputy secretary general of the Palestinian Communist Party, Sulayman Nadjal, Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], member of the Fatah Movement Central Committee and the deputy secretary general of Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, as well as Abu al-Houl, member of the Fatah Movement Central Committee.

Participants hailed President Chadli Bendjedid's initiative which enabled to make important steps towards the victory of the Palestinian people for the recovery their independence and the recuperation of their territory.

Iraq Supports PLO Call for Arab League Meeting

JN251938 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0835 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] Tunis, 25 Feb (INA) — Iraq has informed the Arab League of its support for the PLO request to hold an emergency meeting of the Arab League Council on the foreign ministers level to discuss the situation in the Palestinian camps in Lebanon.

Taha Yasin 'Ali, Iraq's permanent representative to the Arab League, said that Iraq's support for the PLO request is due to the escalation of the conspiracy against the Palestine question and the Palestinian presence in Lebanon, and as a result of several sides' collusion with the Zionist entity with the aim of striking at the PLO.

PLO Official Receives PRC Ambassador to Tunisia

JN242023 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1600 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] Brother Abu Ja'far, PLO Political Department director general, received the PRC ambassador to Tunisia at the department's headquarters yesterday morning. During the meeting, they discussed the most important political developments in the Middle East and the situation of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and Lebanon.

The PRC ambassador voiced his country's constant support for our Palestinian people's just struggle to regain all their inalienable rights. While discussing the situation of our people in Lebanon, the ambassador affirmed the entire Chinese people's sympathy with our kinfolk in the Beirut camps. He reiterated his country's call for an immediate lifting of the siege on all the camps. As an expression for his country's solidarity with our people in Lebanon, the ambassador presented the sum of $50,000 from the Chinese Red Cross Committee to Brother Abu Ja'far to pay for medicines and medical supplies.

Abu Ja'far thanked the ambassador for this friendly stand and affirmed the PLO's eagerness to promote and consolidate the relations of friendship with the people and Government of the PRC.

BAHRAIN

Saudi Foreign Minister Arrives in Manama
JN260902 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0825 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] Manama, 26 Feb (WAKH) — Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal arrived in Manama this morning on a 2-day visit. Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal is carrying a message from Saudi King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, to His Highness 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain. He was received by Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah and Dr Ghazi 'Abd al-Rahman al-Qusaybi, Saudi ambassador to Bahrain.

KUWAIT

Oil Minister Interviewed on Doha Meeting
LD231759 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1429 GMT 23 Feb 87

[Text] Kuwait, 23 Feb (KUNA) — Kuwaiti Oil and Industry Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah al-Adhbi warned international oil companies they will face collective and joint stringent measures from the six Arab GCC states if they create any marketing problems for any GCC states, thus forcing it to sell its oil at a lower price than that already agreed.

Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah, after returning today from Bahrain and Qatar, told KUNA that oil ministers of Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the UAE, Bahrain and the Sultanate of Oman agreed during their Doha meeting yesterday, to bring about unity and solidarity among themselves if any GCC state confronts any problem from international oil companies in marketing its oil production. He stated that the four GCC countries, which are members of OPEC, in addition to Oman and Bahrain, which are not OPEC members, declared their commitment during the meeting to the prices and production decisions adopted in Geneva last december. They reiterated their commitment to the official price of $18 per barrel, and promised not to exceed their allocated production quotas.

Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah added that the six ministers agreed that in the event of any one or more GCC member-states being subjected to marketing problems for their crude oil during the terms of their agreements with their clients from among international companies, they would hold urgent contacts and convene an immediate meeting to tackle such a situation.

He warned that if any international company refused to buy its oil from one of council's member-states in an attempt to put pressure on it to accept a smaller price than the official price, then none of the six council member states would offset the quantities the company refused to buy, and also would not sell it any additional quantities to that agreed upon.

Concerning the role of the GCC member-states in strengthening OPEC's decision regarding pricing and production, Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah affirmed that these states are at the forefront of OPEC member-states regarding respect for the recently reached agreements. He said: If other OPEC member-states stick to their commitments on the official price level as intensively as the Arab Gulf GCC states, and do not overstep their agreed oil-production quotas, there will be no marketing or pricing problems for OPEC member countries.

AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM Attacks 'World Communism'
JN251936 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 24 Feb 87 p 1

[Editorial: "The Dangerous Communist Influence"]

[Text] It seems the big powers view the less influential countries in light of their own interests and benefits. What is being announced about world peace and its principles, and about protecting friends cannot be a real fact. We believe the policy drawn up by world communism stems from its own needs and interests in the first place. Therefore, this policy falls within the framework of a subservience imposed by force. All evidence proves this.

This [communist] policy and its principles, which depend on the teachings of Lenin, Marx, and the other founders of this religion or doctrine, as well as the meanings of anti-Arabism [al-Shu'ubiyyah], subservience, and other topics that we will not mention here and that were added to these principles, were mirrored throughout the past either by the founders of this doctrine itself or by the "comrades" who believed in these principles -- not out of their love of them but out of their hatred for capitalism, which was tarnished and politicized by the United States to serve its interests and objectives. As a result, communist calls have been issued among some people without any realization or awareness of what is behind this principle, whose poisons and dangers have been revealed with time.

It has been proven that those symbols of communism who occupied prominent positions in modern history have the same principle and objective. Regardless of the color of or the expression on their faces, these symbols will be exposed and their dangers will be disclosed. Although the beginnings appear to be sweet, the endings will taste bitter for those who fall victim to the principle of communism and its objectives.

Communist infiltration in the world is something that has brought the world many tragedies. This infiltration also has a negative effects on peace. The people afflicted with rulers following this principle are the ones who always pay the price. These principles, which do not serve humanity and mankind, will blind people with resonant and shining calls for equality and socialism. However, the truth will be exposed when the needs are obtained and when the objectives are achieved, whether it is on the map of world communism or off it; that is, on the map of friends and comrades.

In fact, time, which has exposed the failures of anti-Arab [al-Shu'ubiyyah] rulers, doctrines, and calls throughout history and kept them in the dark chapters, has begun to erase the brilliant and splendid lines of this principle, whose darkness has been exposed to all people of the world. This principle will end and will be obliterated like the others that history itself has forgotten.

PDRY

Aden Reports Cooperation Talks With CSSR

EA251000 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] The first round of talks between Democratic Yemen and Socialist Czechoslovakia were held at the Foreign Ministry this evening. The two sides discussed aspects of cooperation between the two friendly countries and ways of developing and consolidating them. The two sides also exchanged views on several Arab and international issues of common interest. The two sides expressed their profound pleasure at the depth of relations that link the two friendly countries.

In the talks the Yemeni side was led by Brother Shayi Muhsin, deputy foreign minister, while the Czechoslovak side was led by Comrade Dusan Ulcak, Czechoslovak deputy foreign minister. It has been decided that the two sides will continue their talks tomorrow morning, Wednesday, to discuss the issues on the agenda. The Czechoslovak delegation arrived in Aden this morning.

Scientific Agreement Signed

EA260231 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Excerpt] A protocol on scientific cooperation between Democratic Yemen and the CSSR was signed today by Brother Sahyi Muhsin, deputy foreign minister, on the Yemeni side, and by Comrade Dusan Ulcak, deputy foreign minister, on the Czechoslovak side. The final round of talks, which began yesterday, was held at the Foreign Ministry this morning.

The sides expressed their deep gratification at the level of cooperative relations reached between the two countries and their determination to continue efforts to consolidate bonds of friendship and joint work in their interests. [passage omitted]

SAUDI ARABIA

Gulf Chiefs of Staff To Attend Military Exercise

LD242144 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1820 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Excerpt] Khamis Mushait, 24 Feb (SPA) — General Mazid al-Sani', chief of the Kuwaiti General Staff; Staff Colonel Shaykh Mubarak 'Abd al-Rahman al-Thani, chief of the Qatari General Staff; Staff Gen Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad al-Thani, chief of the Bahraini Defense Force General Staff; the head of the YAR Training Department; the chief of the UAE Training Department; and Staff Col 'Ali Rashid al-Kibani, director of the Omani Training Department; arrived at King Khalid Air Base in Khamis Mushait today on a visit to the Kingdom to attend the final "Rayat al-Tawhid" exercise taking place in the southern region. They were invited by Gen Muhammad al-Hammad, chief of the General Staff. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Meets With UK Official

LD251531 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0658 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] Riyadh, 25 Feb (SPA) — His Royal Highness Sa'ud al-Faysal, minister of foreign affairs, met this morning with his excellency the minister of state at the Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Department, Timothy Renton, who is now on a visit to the Kingdom.

During the meeting, the two examined relations between the two countries in particular, and European-Arab relations in general, in addition to issues of common concern.

Present at the meeting were Ma'mun Qabani, head of the Foreign Ministry's Western Department, and British ambassador to the Kingdom Steven Egerton.

Official Departs for Muscat

LD260922 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0709 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] Riyadh, 26 Feb (SPA) — Timothy Renton, the British minister for Middle East affairs, left Riyadh this morning for Muscat following a 2-day visit to the Kingdom.

He was seen off at the airport by the head of protocol at the Foreign Ministry, Saudi Arabian Ambassador 'Isa al-Nuwaysir, and a number of Foreign Ministry officials.

Interior Minister Interviewed on Gulf Security

JN241010 Muscat 'UMAN in Arabic 19 Feb 87 p 16

[Interview with Saudi Interior Minister Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz by correspondent Nabil Fahmi in Muscat — date not given]

[Text] [Fahmi] What has the GCC interior ministers extraordinary meeting achieved? What topics were discussed and what were the most important topics discussed?

['Abd al-'Aziz] We are satisfied with the results of the meeting. We discussed many security issues in the Gulf arena, issues that contribute to the establishment of security and stability in the region. The main topics discussed was the comprehensive security strategy which was approved. We also succeeded in adopting resolutions that will fulfill the aspirations of our leaders and our citizens in the Gulf region and that will serve them and entrench security in our homeland.

The meticulous preparations and the efficient organization by our Omani brothers have greatly contributed to the success or our meeting and have enabled us to complete our work in a short time.

Our meetings are always characterized by an agreement in viewpoints because we view matters objectively, respect each other's opinion, and discuss things in a positve manner. Hence, the results of our meeting will soon be felt by the citizen. Our region is experiencing sensitive and delicate security circumstances. However, thanks to a wise policy and the cooperation between the citizen and his state, and also thanks to the cooperation among all the responsible departments, our region succeeded in avoiding many problems and in demonstrating that it can tackle any security problems.

[Fahmi] Were the recent incidents in Kuwait the basic reason for the convocation of this extraordinary meeting?

['Abd al-'Aziz] The incidents were not the basic reason for this meeting although [Kuwaiti Interior Minister] Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad had submitted a detailed report during the meeting on the recent incidents, the results of the investigations, and the measures that his country adopted to tackle these incidents and safeguard security and stability in Kuwait.

The Kuwait security organs succeeded in completely and efficiently containing the incidents and have proved that they are capable of tackling such matters and foiling all enemy schemes against our region. This is an achievement of which we are very proud.

[Fahmi] Your meeting in Muscat was an extraordinary meeting. When will your next ordinary meeting take place?

['Abd al-'Aziz] Usually, the ordinary meeting precedes the GCC summit. Therefore, it may be held in October or November this year.

[Fahmi] You discussed and approved the comprehensive security strategy for the Gulf region. What about the unified Gulf security agreement?

['Abd al-'Aziz] The security agreement is one of the principal means for implementing the comprehensive security strategy. The strategy is the general framework for the agreement.

[Fahmi] Are there still any differences which obstruct the approval of this agreement?

['Abd al-'Aziz] There are no differences. There are only interpretations, concepts, and viewpoints which are constantly put forth for discussion. Each one of us respects the viewpoints of the others. We discuss these viewpoints in a positive and objective manner, deduce the results, and attain the appropriate formula which must be approved by all of us. I am confident that we will soon ratify the unified Gulf security agreement.

[Fahmi] Will the security strategy be implemented only after it is ratified by the Supreme Council?

['Abd al-'Aziz] Of course. Any decisions by subsidiary bodies must be ratified by the Supreme Council before they are implemented. However, this does not mean that the comprehensive security strategy will be delayed or obstructed. There is a provision in the comprehensive security strategy which calls on the interior ministries and the general secretariat to proceed with its implementation.

Gulf security cooperation and coordination exists. Contacts continued to take place before the comprehensive security strategy and after it was adopted. We tackle every incident as a whole and the comprehensive security strategy is a comprehensive framework that covers the entire responsibilities of the interior ministries and of some other security bodies in the GCC countries.

[Fahmi] It has been reported that once the unified Gulf security strategy is ratified freedom will be restricted?

['Abd al-'Aziz] This will never take place. The comprehensive security strategy has been adopted to enhance the citizen's security, stability, and prosperity. The security strategy imposes no restrictions. It is a general framework for a security concept in accordance with which the competent official bodies and the citizens cooperate, each within his field of specialization, to safeguard security and tackle any current or future circumstances.

[Fahmi] How will the citizen benefit from this?

['Abd al-'Aziz] The citizen will benefit much. The continued enhancement of security will benefit the citizen in all fields. I believe that no good can be achieved if there is no security or stability. If there is security, the citizen can achieve what he wants and he can also fulfill his aspirations. All this is in the interest of the citizen. The land with no people living on it is of no value. Everything is being done for the welfare of all the citizens.

The security strategy covers all matters that have anything to do with security. It also covers food security, political security, and all other aspects of security, even your work as journalists.

[Fahmi] You spoke about the gravity of the security situation in the Gulf region. What does this mean?

['Abd al-'Aziz] All those who closely follow the state of affairs in the region cannot deny its dangers. The incidents which took place in fraternal Kuwait are a warning to all of us. There are attempts to destabilize our region. Therefore, as competent bodies and citizens, we must confront these attempts.

[Fahmi] Do you believe that Kuwait is the only target?

['Abd al-'Aziz] I believe the incidents in Kuwait are a warning to all of us. All Gulf countries and not only Kuwait are the targets for such attempts.

[Fahmi] How can we deal with this state of affairs?

['Abd al-'Aziz] By preparing to confront it with all means and by the assumption of all of their responsibilities.

[Fahmi] How prepared are the Saudi security organs for confronting any attempt to undermine security in Saudi Arabia or to carry out sabotage operations?

['Abd al-'Aziz] We have security organs that are capable of confronting such operations and attempts. We continue to consolidate these security organs whose task is to serve the citizens, ward off evil from our homeland, and entrench security which is a permanent feature in our country.

[Fahmi] Many issues were recently raised in our Gulf region such as the issue of naturalization, the unified Gulf passport, the freedom of movement for citizens in Gulf countries, and other issues. What do you have to say on all these issues?

['Abd al-'Aziz] All matters that are of interest to the citizens of the Gulf countries and that are within the prerogatives of the interior ministries are being discussed in an objective manner. Every country's circumstances are taken into consideration. There are committees currently working on all the issues that have been raised.

[Fahmi] Do you believe the attempts to undermine security and stability in the Gulf arena are a natural result of the prolongation of the Iraq-Iran war?

['Abd al-'Aziz] There is no doubt that the prolongation of the Iraq-Iran war has something to do with these attempts and these incidents by virtue of the location of the Gulf countries or because they are Arab countries. We have always sought to have good relations with Iran given the fact that it is a neighbor country and an Islamic country. We do not exclude the possibility that security and stability will soon prevail in our region and that all Gulf people, including the Iraqi and Iranian people, will work closely together in the interest of security of the entire Gulf region.

YAR

President Salih Visits Military Units in Ma'rib

JN251948 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, paid inspection visits to a number of military units in Ma'rib today. He was received by the commanders and officers of those units who apprised him of the progress of training programs and various activities.

The brother president addressed officers, noncommissioned officers, and enlisted personnel during this visit, expressing his deep satisfaction with the advanced level achieved by these units during training and qualification programs. He also praised efforts being exerted in this regard and reiterated the need to exert further efforts to train soldiers to absorb modern military technologies and to enable them to catch up with new developments in the military field to bolster the Armed Forces' ability to play their role in defending the homeland's sovereignty and independence and in defending the gains and accomplishments of the eternal 26 September Revolution.

The brother president also inspected the progress of the 90 km-long Ma'rib-Harib Road project that is being undertaken and implemented by the Engineer Corps. He also expressed his deep satisfaction with the level of performance shown in implementing this project.

During these visits, the brother president was accompanied by a number of state officials, a number of brother members of the Standing Committee and the General People's Assembly, and Brother Dirham Nu'man, Ma'rib District director and member of the Standing Committee.

Further Reportage on Visit by Israel's Peres

Views Mideast Peace Efforts

NC251401 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1235 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] Israeli Foreign Minister Shim‘on Peres and his accompanying delegation arrived in Cairo this morning on a 2-day working visit. Peres was met upon arrival by Dr ‘Ismat ‘Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Prime Minister Dr ‘Atif Sidqi will receive the Israeli foreign minister this evening. Official talks between Dr ‘Abd al-Majid and Shim‘on Peres on Middle East developments and ways of boosting the peace efforts are scheduled to begin at 1830 today.

In a statement upon his arrival in Cairo this morning, Israeli Foreign Minister Peres expressed the hope that ways of promoting the peace efforts would be discussed during the talks. He also declared: Peace between Egypt and Israel is a good precedent which we are trying to follow with the rest of the countries in the region.

Commenting on the question of an international conference, Peres said he believes that Egypt, Israel, and Jordan agree on conducting direct negotiations through an international conference. He said that in his view Egypt, Israel, and Jordan should reach accord on the preparatory measures and on the parties attending the conference. Peres added that once these are agreed upon, the Israeli Government should make a decision in this regard. Peres said that he has come to Cairo as a representative of the Israeli Government to give an impetus to the peace efforts. Regarding the effect of his trip on the Israeli elections and the ruling coalition, Peres stated that his visit is aimed at boosting the peace efforts, and has nothing to do with the elections. He noted that there are points of agreement between Egypt and Israel, although there are differences between the two countries on two or three questions. He added that he would discuss ways of overcoming the matters in dispute during his talks in Cairo.

Official Talks Begin

NC252010 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1950 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] Cairo, 25 Feb (MENA) — Official Egyptian-Israeli talks began at the Foreign Ministry at 1915 today. ‘Ismat ‘Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, led the Egyptian delegation to the talks, while Shim‘on Peres, Israeli deputy prime minister and foreign minister, led the Israelis.

The agenda for the talks included topics pertaining to developments in the Middle East and the prospects for providing momentum to the Middle East peace process.

Afterward, Shim‘on Peres said that the talks were fruitful.

Replying to journalists' questions on the Soviet Union's participation in peace talks, Peres said: I cannot answer this question, because the Soviet Union has not participated in today's talks. The talks are confined to Egyptian and Israeli participants. MENA has learned that the talks focused on the Middle East situation, on ways to give an impetus to peace efforts in the area, and on ideas related to the convocation of an international conference for peace in the Middle East.

Sidqi, Peres Hold Talks

NC252035 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1953 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] Cairo, 25 Feb (MENA) — Prime Minister Dr ‘Atif Sidqi received Israeli Foreign Minister Shim‘on Peres at his office this evening. Their discussion dealt with the ways to give momentum to the peace process in the area, as well as bilateral relations. The meeting was attended by Dr ‘Ismat ‘Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Moshe Sason, Israeli ambassador in Cairo.

AL-AKHBAR Comments on Visit

NC260717 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2240 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] Cairo, 25 Feb (MENA) — *Al-Akhbar* has expressed the hope Israeli Foreign Minister Shim‘on Peres' current visit to Egypt will succeed in paving the way for positive steps toward an international conference for peace in the Middle East.

In a commentary appearing in its Thursday issue, the paper says: It should also be made clear to Peres and the Israeli leaders in Tel Aviv that genuine peace is to be achieved not by mere statements and slogans but by sincere effort coupled with good intentions — something of which Israel has thus far given no evidence.

In this connection, the paper refers to the dispute, which may lead to a confrontation precipitating the collapse of the ruling coalition in Israel, between Peres, who supports the idea of an international conference, and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, who is now the only person opposed to such a conference. The paper says the dispute between the two has reached such proportions that Shamir was prompted to declare Peres is not authorized to speak on this subject.

The paper asks: Are we to blame for assuming Peres' acceptance of an international conference reflected the position of the entire Israeli Government, which Peres represented at the time? Does the Israeli Government not have a firm policy? Does its policy change along with individual ministers? Or is it that the formation of coalition government between the Likud bloc and the Labor Party was designed to waste more time and effort, so the frozen peace process may remain as it is? Unless the peace process is consolidated, according to Peres, it will collapse.

AL-MUSAWWAR on Mubarak's Postponed U.S. Visit

NC251303 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1120 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Excerpts] Cairo, 25 Feb (MENA) — In its Friday [27 February] edition, the Egyptian *Al-Musawwar* magazine writes that Cairo has sent a clear and polite message to Washington apologizing for the fact that President Husni Mubarak will not be able to visit on 25 February.

According to the magazine, Cairo has asserted that Mubarak is looking forward to a meeting with U.S. President Ronald Reagan, to be held after proper preparations, so that positive results may be achieved to benefit bilateral relations and peace efforts in the Middle East.

Al-Musawwar Editor-in-Chief Makram Muhammad Ahmad writes in an editorial that President Mubarak did not apologize because he does not want a personal meeting with the Israeli prime minister but because he is certain that Shamir, who has turned the world upside down over the issue of an international peace conference in the Middle East, will not be able to contribute anything toward peace or move an inch beyond his rigid religious theory. That theory contends that Israel, having swallowed up the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, has not yet reached all its biblical borders, which include eastern Jordan.

The magazine asserts that Cairo agreed a week ago to Shim'on Peres' wish to pay a 3-day visit to Egypt only to prove to the Israelis that nothing stands in the way of an Egyptian-Israeli meeting, anytime and anywhere, if there is any hope that such a meeting would give impetus to the peace march, which is being antagonized by extremists.

Al-Musawwar writes that the lukewarm American response to the concept of the international conference represents a major point of difference with Washington. A second difference is with the U.S. Administration's means of dealing with the issue of Egyptian military debts and interest rates.

In this regard, the magazine notes that Egypt's specific request was for lower interest rates on these debts, on a par with current international rates, which do not exceed 7 percent. [passage omitted]

In conclusion, the magazine asserts that the right way to regain U.S. credibility in the region is for the Administration to give priority to the Arab world and its security and stability, instead of practicing one-upmanship regarding these matters in favor of [word indistinct] and pro-extremism.

Al-Musawwar notes that Washington was making plans for Mubarak's arrival, while the issue of arms exports to Iran was still very much in evidence, to protray the U.S. regime as having gained back some of its lost credibility in the Arab world.

The paper concludes that Washington wanted to receive Mubarak before the end of February, hoping that a tripartite meeting including Shamir could be held, though the three parties know they would achieve no more than artificial smiles of astonishment on their faces.

AL-AHRAM: Visit Talks Ongoing

NC260519 Cairo MENA in English 2235 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] Cairo, Feb 25 (MENA) — Talks on President Husni Mubarak's visit to the United States are still under way, tomorrow's *Al-Ahram*, a Cairo morning Arabic-language daily, says.

Given a front-page lead, the report is quoting the paper's political editor as also learning that the date of this visit will be fixed in the light of President Mubarak's internal appointments and People's Assembly elections (which are set for April 6).

The U.S. *Washington Post* newspaper had reported that President Mubarak apologized for not accepting an invitation to visit Washington, *Al-Ahram* says.

Al-Ahram asserts that this has not happened, the Cairo daily's report adds.

USSR Official Stops in Cairo, Comments on Summit

NC252034 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1940 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] Cairo, 25 Feb (MENA) — Suleyman Tatliyev, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and chairman of the Azerbaijan SSR Council of Ministers, has expressed his satisfaction with the positive progress made in Egyptian-Soviet relations. He said current circumstances favor efforts to strengthen and develop these relations in various areas.

In a statement he made this evening on a stopover at Cairo airport while en route to his country from Khartoum, the Soviet official referred to the Soviet Union's stand on the Middle East issue. He affirmed his country is seeking to resolve the issue peacefully through an international peace conference, to be preceded by the establishment of a committee to prepare for the convocation of the conference, with representatives of the permanent UN Security Council member countries.

Commenting on his visit to Sudan, Tatliyev said he met with top Sudanese officials, discussing ways of bolstering Sudanese-Soviet relations in various fields.

Soviet Official Leaves Cairo After 8-Day Visit

NC251346 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1320 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] Cairo, 25 Feb (MENA) — Dr Oleg Peresypkin, rector of the Diplomatic Academy of the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and his delegation left Cairo this afternoon after an 8-day visit. During his stay in Egypt, Peresypkin met with Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, and Dr 'Abd al-Ahad Jamal al-Din, chairman of the Higher Council for Youth and Sports and chairman of the Egyptian United Nations Society.

In a predeparture statement, Peresypkin said that he discussed ways to boost bilateral relations, the situation in the Middle East, and the need to find a quick solution to the Middle East crisis, in accordance with UN resolutions. He also discussed the need to guarantee the Palestinian people's rights and to convene an international conference with the participation of all parties concerned, including the PLO in its capacity as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The need to strengthen world peace and security and to limit nuclear weapons was also addressed in his talks.

Soviets To Aid Chemical Production Project

NC251138 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1045 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] Cairo, 25 Feb (MENA) — The Soviet Union has agreed to take part in the implementation of a huge industrial project with the Al-Nasr Company for coke and basic chemicals in Hulwan. The USSR will undertake the building of a fourth battery [battariyah], which will increase the current 1-million ton production of coke to 1 1/2 million tons by 1990, at a value of $150 million per year.

Eng 'Adil al-Mawzy, chairman of the Al-Nasr board of directors, has stated that the USSR will provide a 35-million pound sterling loan, at accounting value, to buy the necessary equipment. Total investment in the project amounts to 80 million pounds.

A Soviet industrial delegation, led by the chairman of the Soviet industrial commission (?Tyazhpromeksport), is due to arrive in Cairo next week for a 10-day visit to sign the final agreement and decide on the executive procedures for this new project.

A Soviet industrial delegation representing that Soviet commission arrived in Cairo today to make arrangements for the chairman's visit and to hold talks at the project site in Hulwan.

Ghali Interviewed on Relations With USSR

JN142100 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 13 Feb 1987 pp 22-23, 67

[Interview with Dr Butrus Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, by *Al-Musawwar* correspondent Sana' al-Sa'id — date and place not given]

[Text] [Al-Sa'id] Undoubtedly, the international balance of power is vital to our interests. However, is it possible to have a more balanced and neutral foreign policy?

[Ghali] This is a purely theoretical question because our policy is specified according to circumstances. In the 1960-1970 period when we were in a military confrontation with Israel our relations with the USSR became stronger because it provided us with the arms we needed to enter the battle. However, when we decided to pursue dialogue and negotiations we bolstered our relations with the United States, because that is the country with the greatest influence on Israel. This means our relations with the big powers are dictated by Egypt's circumstances, even though its course is tied to the principles of the Nonaligned Movement.

[Al-Sa'id] Let us move away from the balance of power. Regarding the conflict in the region, the balance seems to tip in favor of a superpower that has more say in this issue.

[Ghali] This is true to a certain extent and even emphasizes the current distinguished relations between Egypt and the United States.

[Al-Sa'id] In his annual speech at the end of last month, Reagan explained the strategy of the United States is aimed at protecting U.S. interests and attaining a peaceful settlement to the Palestine question. He also explained his September 1982 peace initiative is still the cornerstone of U.S. efforts in the peace process and the aim is direct negotiations. Where does the Soviet role lie in this?

[Ghali] We must endeavor to encourage dialogue between the two superpowers and must not forget they both agreed on the need to work together when Resolution 338 was adopted after the October war, and Gromyko and Cyrus Vance signed the joint communique on 1 October 1977. Thus, we have to involve both of them in the peace process within the framework of the international conference we are seeking.

[Al-Sa'id] But welcoming a Soviet role in the peace process might reverse the situation as far as the U.S. role is concerned and might even diminish it. Moreover, the Soviets consider the idea of the international conference an alternative to the peace agreements and the Camp David accords, which resulted in the USSR's exclusion.

[Ghali] There is no conflict involving the peace agreements and the Camp David accords and the USSR's participation, which was frankly stipulated in the sixth article of the Camp David accords; that is, that permanent Security Council members can participate in the peace process later. Moreover, the United Nations issued a resolution a few years ago stressing the need for an international conference. UN resolutions express the will of the international community. Therefore, there is no conflict.

[Al-Sa'id] The United States has always managed to stay afloat and renew its relations with the Arabs through economic and military assistance. However, the Soviets cannot compete with it in this regard. The most visible proof of this is despite the deteriorating U.S.-Arab relations in the wake of the recent arms deal with Iran, the United States has managed to absorb Arab anger by hinting at new arms deals with the Arab countries, especially Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, and Jordan.

[Ghali] This question contains the idea of a confrontation between the two superpowers. We reject this because it is not in the interests of the region. Thus, we seek to avoid this because it might lead to further polarization and drowning the region once again in the doldrums of the Cold War.

[Al-Sa'id] Is bolstering relations with the USSR a preemptive, propagandist move to make the West adopt more positive, effective stands, or is it a move essentially aimed at establishing constructive relations with the Soviets? In other words, is bolstering relations a tactical or strategic move?

[Ghali] Egypt's desire to improve relations with the USSR stems from its nonaligned policy which has been a mainstay of Egyptian foreign policy since 1961. Subsequently, we cannot say the current dialogue between Egypt and the USSR stems from a tactical motive. It is dictated by a purely strategic motive.

[Al-Sa'id] All the Soviets are interested in with regard torelations with the United States are the arms issues. So, where does the Middle East fit into their list of priorities?

[Ghali] We hope the two superpowers will meet to deal with the Middle East issue. Should such a meeting take place, it will undoubtedly help promote the peace process anew and remove the Middle East crisis from the Cold War circle.

[Al-Sa'id] But the Middle East conflict reflects the roots and background of the Cold War between the two superpowers. From your point of view, can the two superpowers reach agreement on the peace process in the region, or are the differences between them still so sharp they have made the Middle East recede in importance?

[Ghali] The Middle East countries should take steps with both superpowers, at international forums, with the European group countries, and with all peace-loving countries to place the Middle East issue on a list of foreseeable priorities in the two superpowers' foreign policies. We must not forget the Gromyko-Vance statement in Occtober 1977, which considered the Middle East a priority issue for the two superpowers.

[Al-Sa'id] The Afghanistan experience is a horrible example and primary proof the Soviet Union imposes its aspirations on countries through military force.

[Ghali] What is taking place in Afghanistan is a point of difference between the Egyptian and Soviet policies.

[Al-Sa'id] Has complete confidence returned between Cairo and Moscow? Are larger diplomatic moves still needed to achieve this confidence?

[Ghali] Yes, complete confidence has returned. The effort needed to deepen it should be exerted by both countries and does not lie outside the framework of ordinary diplomatic action.

[Al-Sa'id] Your visit to the Soviet Union last year was an important event in the march of Egyptian-Soviet relations following the renewed exchange of ambassadors by the two countries in 1984. How do they assess these relations at present?

[Ghali] First, I would like to shed light on some facts about the history of official Egyptian-Soviet relations. Undoubtedly, the issue of these relations has great importance in view of the two countries' extremely important status in the world. The Soviet Union is a superpower that has ambitions in various parts of the world. Egypt, with its important geographical location and its status in the Middle East, is of interest to the world in general and to the big powers in particular. This is affirmed by the USSR view of, and relationship with, Egypt since the October Socialist revolution of 1917 and since official relations were established between the two countries. Relations between czarist Russia and Egypt were traditional and affected by the relations between czarist Russia and the Ottoman state. But when the October Socialist Revolution erupted in Russia the situation changed and Soviet Russia began to show interest in Egypt, particularly after the 1919 revolution in Egypt. Some historians went as far as to say the echoes of the October revolution in Russia resounded in Egypt and in various parts of the world, especially because the Egyptian people were longing for self-determination and the expulsion of the British occupation. Lenin's interest in the Egyptian revolution was shown by the famous cable of congratulations expressing support he sent to Sa'd Zaghlul, leader of the Egyptian revolution. Following this, in the normal march of Egyptian-Soviet relations, there was an early meeting between the national liberation movement, which was adopted by the Egyptian revolution in the fifties and sixties, and the progressive world movement. The socialist camp was an advanced group of this movement during that phase, which witnessed a violent conflict between the imperialist forces and the world peoples' liberation vanguards.

[Al-Sa'id] Getting away from verbal expressions, I wonder about the real content of Egyptian-Soviet relations.

[Ghali] It is interesting for me to note Egyptian-Soviet relations developed in the fifties and sixties on firm bases of joint understanding of peoples' right to independence and self-determination and their freedom to choose their social regimes as well as cooperation in the two countries' interests. When the seventies brought negative circumstances in Egyptian-Soviet relations as a result of political disagreements between the two countries on the way to solve the Middle East problem and on Egyptian peace policy, the two sides tried to work for the continuation of a minimum degree of relations in various fields, shielding them as much as possible from the inappropriate atmosphere of the political relations between the two countries at that time.

[Al-Sa'id] Despite the step adopted in 1984 represented by the exchange of ambassadors between the two countries, some people still view Egyptian-Soviet relations as diminished and hesitant.

[Ghali] This is not true. When President Husni Mubarak took office in late 1981 — and according to clear signs made by Cairo confirming Egypt's nonbiased policy, its readiness to cooperate with all the world countries, and its desire to normalize relations with the socialist countries — there were strong signs the objective conditions needed to end the previous lean years were at hand to compensate for what was missed during the previous stage dominated by recession and coolness in bilateral relations in all fields. Mutual respect, common interests, and profound understanding of the principles that govern international relations are suitable bases for renewed meeting between the two peoples and countries. The exchange of ambassadors between Cairo and Moscow in 1984 was the starting point in reactivating Egyptian-Soviet relations on the level of contacts and exchange of visits, which are designed to develop bilateral relations and exchange views on international and regional matters concerning the two sides. A Soviet parliamentary delegation led by the president of the Republic of Georgia visited Egypt in late 1986 in reply to a visit by an Egyptian parliamentary delegation led by Muhammad 'Abdallah to Moscow in 1985. Vladimir Polyakov, chief of the Near Eastern Countries Department, also visited Egypt in April 1986 and held talks with Egyptian officials on the Middle East issue and bilateral relations. Vladimir Petrovskiy, Soviet Deputy Prime Minister and official in charge of international organizations, visited Cairo in August 1986. Other Soviet officials also visited Egypt on various occasions.

[Al-Sa'id] Can we say the political gap between the two countries no longer exists?

[Ghali] It is no secret several positive factors have resulted in the current development of political relations between the two countries, foremost of which are the important similarity between the two countries' viewpoints on ways to solve the Middle East problem, the invitation of the Soviet Union to contribute to an international conference to be attended by all concerned parties, and Egypt's support for this idea under UN auspices and with Soviet participation.

[Al-Sa'id] Does this mean differences no longer exist between Egypt and the Soviet Union?

[Ghali] There are still differences between us and the Soviet Union, foremost of which are the Camp David accords, Egypt's method to solve the Middle East problem, the Afghan problem and the presence of the Soviet forces in that Islamic country, and the Cambodian problem and Soviet support for the Vietnamese military presence there. It is known Egypt maintains diplomatic relations with the Kampuchean coalition government opposed to the current regime in Phnom Penh. There are also differences over the definition of the concept of nonalignment, which we view as a peace force and a balance between the two international blocs while the Soviet Union believes in the need to achieve an alliance between the Nonaligned Movement and the socialist camp. At the same time, there are many points of agreement, as we have previously said, foremost of which are the need to eliminate nuclear weapons, stop the arms race and space militarization, support the United Nations, support world peace and solving problems and disputes through peaceful means, and establishing an international economic system to safeguard the developing countries' interests and to enable them to benefit from their resources and natural wealth.

[Al-Sa'id] Was this development in relations and political contacts reflected in other aspects of relations, particularly in the field of trade exchange or economic cooperation?

[Ghali] Certainly; there is a firm connection between politics and economy. Progress and development in political relations positively affects the economic side. It is noteworthy to say in this regard relations among states are a two-sided road. We, in Egypt, hope we will meet with the Soviet Union in the middle of the road, providing the Soviet side completely understands the Egyptian economic situation.

In this regard, I would like to point out to the Soviet side the economic formula, with its two parts, production and exportation, is the most pressing item on the agenda of the Egyptian national action. The translation of this formula on the domestic level lies in the modernization of the industrial structure of the Egyptian public sector to allow it to cope with the most sophisticated technological methods, and on the foreign level in opening foreign markets for Egyptian products. Undoubtedly, the USSR and the socialist states can play an important role in modernizing the Egyptian public sector,which was established by eastern expertise in the sixties to a great extent. Moreover, the USSR is fully aware of this sector's requirements. The Soviet market is an important and traditional market for Egyptian exports, whose bases have been entrenched throughout 30 years. Therefore, I would like to say that to achieve the desired normalization of relations between the two countries, we must focus on the economic field, because this serves Egypt by improving the Egyptian public sector's production and raising its capacity to the maximum. Expanding exchange and cooperation in this important field of relations between the two countries can undoubtedly serve the two countries' interests to a great extent. Perhaps, the great development in Indian-Soviet economic relations is an example of a possible cooperation in this field. Statistics show the volume of trade exchange between India and the USSR is currently $3.5 billion per year. During Soviet leader Gorbachev's recent visit to India, it was agreed to increase the volume of trade exchange between the two countries 2 and 1/2 times until 1990.

[Al-Sa'id] What about rescheduling Egypt's military debts, which constitute an obstacle to sound relations with the USSR?

[Ghali] On our part, we have a strong desire to remove all obstacles to establishing fruitful and positive cooperation between the two countries. These obstacles are represented by the debts issue and trade exchange based on a reasonable exchange price. There are positive signs reflected by the Egyptian-Soviet talks held in Cairo recently. These talks concluded with an agreement to determine the broad lines of rescheduling Egypt's debts to the Soviet Union. We hope this will be achieved in the session of talks to be held in Moscow in March 1987. Egypt also hopes the Egyptian-Soviet agreement on rescheduling debts will be an example of sound relations among the big powers and the Third World concerning its current economic crisis. On my part, I can say the Egyptian leadership is concerned about sound and developed relations with the Soviet Union. Within this framework, President Mubarak has approved the reactivation of the Egyptian-Soviet Friendship Society and entrusted me with chairing it.

[Al-Sa'id] What does the decision to return the Egyptian-[Soviet] Friendship Society indicate? Did it come about as a gesture of rectifying the policy of relations with a superpower to affirm a sound balanced course?

[Ghali] Egypt is principally interested in affirming its status as a nonaligned country and is eager to reinforce the concept of balance in its foreign relations with the two superpowers as a basic rule in Egyptian diplomacy while maintaining distinguished relations with the United States. This policy is encouraged by the USSR, which realizes the importance of the Egyptian role in the region and is convinced there would be no solution to the Middle East problem without a positive Egyptian participation. Undoubtedly, Egypt's decision to restore the Egyptian-Soviet Friendship Society is a gesture of goodwill on our part and an expression of our desire to promote bilateral relations. One should note Egypt recently received a group of Soviet cinematographers and a ballet troupe. Moreover, relations between official trade union federations in the two countries were resumed after a 10-year freeze. There was an exchange of visits by scientific and technical delegations in accordance with the cultural cooperation protocol. Moreover, preparations are currently under way for a new protocol to organize cooperation in the scientific, technical, and sports fields for 1987-1988. Egypt has 200 students in the USSR studying for doctorates. The Egyptian-Soviet Friendship Society will draw up a program for its activities to facilitate the most suitable psychological atmosphere to develop relations between the two countries in various fields to bolster and deepen the concepts of friendship, mutual respect, and common interests between the Egyptian and Soviet peoples.

[Al-Sa'id] Now that you have opened the first symposium of Soviet dialogue on Africa, would you kindly shed some light on the idea behind this symposium?

[Ghali] During my visit to Moscow in June 1986 at the invitation of the African Studies Institute of the Soviet Academy of Sciences to attend the second African-Soviet conference on peace and cooperation, I agreed with Anatoliy Gromyko, director of the aforementioned Soviet institute, to organize an Egyptian-Soviet symposium between the Institute of Diplomatic Studies at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry and the African Studies Institute at the Soviet Academy of Sciences. This idea was actually implemented.

[Al-Sa'id] But what essentially is the purpose of this symposium? Could it be a window to view the dimensions and aims of Soviet policy?

[Ghali] The aim of this symposium is to enable the dialogue and intellectual exchange with Soviet academicians and diplomats to give us a closer understanding of the dimensions of Soviet policy in Africa. Just as our experts assess scientific relations and contacts with the European, Asian, and U.S. research centers and academic institutes that have an interest in Africa, it is equally useful to provide our scientists, experts, and specialists with the opportunities to establish relations and conduct dialogue with Soviet research centers. The Egyptian Foreign Ministry's Institute of Diplomatic Studies will also organize a symposium with both the George Washington and John Hopkins Universities in the United States next April. These universities are specialist institutes that cooperate with the U.S. State Department in the field of decisionmaking.

Undoubtedly, Egyptian diplomacy, which does not operate in a vacuum but within an interrelated international framework in terms of interests, ideologies, and policies, needs to study and understand the international dimensions of the policies of the big powers. The purpose of this is to formulate viewpoints on a clear basis and expand insight into the various trends, intellectual styles, and scientific objectives of the various political forces, directly whenever possible. The Egyptian-Soviet symposium on Africa will undoubtedly provide the appropriate opportunity and background for study and exchange between the Institute of Diplomatic Studies in Egypt and the African Studies Institute in Moscow in a healthy, objective, and fruitful atmosphere.

[Al-Sa'id] Can we conclude Egypt, with its central position both geographically and politically between the big powers, its excellent relations with the United States and the PRC, as well as its currently improving relations with the USSR, plays a reconciliatory role between the USSR and the PRC on one hand and the USSR and United States on the other?

[Ghali] Anyone who carefully studies Egypt's history will clearly realize its central position has always dominated its dealing with the outside world. Egyptian diplomacy exploits this heritage in its various activities and seeks to establish relations and contacts to benefit its mission. While we conduct dialogue with the Soviets and Americans, we never for a moment ignore the PRC, the Asian giant that always imposes itself and forces attention. The symposium for dialogue between Egypt and the PRC held last year does not fall outside the framework of this multifaceted activity.

Undoubtedly, Egypt's experience, understanding, and knowledge of international affairs and conflicts constitute an additional resource Egyptian diplomacy uses, whether in bilateral relations or in dealing with various sides, and at international forums to bolster accord, understanding, and peace as necessary prerequisites for [resolving] the international community's crises until justice, democracy, and security prevail — the prerequisites badly needed by the majority of small and weak countries such as Egypt.

[Al-Sa'id] How can Egypt exist and have normal relations separatefrom the conflicts of the big powers, which are characterized by absolute selfishness and in which selfish policies prevail?

[Ghali] For Egypt, a country with limited capabilities and restricted potential — especially in relations between the big powers, whether between the USSR and the United States or between the USSR and the PRC — to have normal relations, it must seek wider arenas with large moral forces and enormous capabilities, such as the Nonaligned Movement. This acts as an important political federation whose task is not to merely defend the rights of those affiliated with it but also to exert the utmost effort to provide a peaceful atmosphere, entrench accord, and defuse tension and confrontation between the big powers in the interest of the international community as a whole.

Polish Officials Arrive in Cairo 18 February

NC190744 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2256 GMT 18 Feb 87

[Text] Cairo, 18 Feb (MENA) — Jan Majewski, Poland's deputy foreign minister, and Janusz Palniski, the deputy foreign trade minister [name and title as received], arrived in Cairo tonight at the head of a delegation on a 4-day visit to Egypt.

Ambassador Ahmad Hatatah, assistant foreign minister, was at the airport to receive the Polish guests. He said the purpose of this visit is to prepare for the trip which Zbigniew Messner, the Polish prime minister, will make to Egypt in April at Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi's invitation.

The Polish delegation is scheduled to meet with officials from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Economy.

Polish Interior Minister on 'Private' Visit

NC250641 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0628 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] Cairo, 25 Feb (MENA) — General Czeslaw Kiszczak, Polish minister of internal affairs, arrived in Cairo from Addis Ababa early this morning. He is on a private visit expected to last several hours, after which he will return to his country.

Minister Departs

NC251550 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1540 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] Cairo, 25 Feb (MENA) — General Czeslaw Kiszczak, Polish minister of internal affairs, and his delegation left Egypt this afternoon after a visit of a few hours. He made a sightseeing tour of the Pyramids of Giza, the National Museum, and other tourist sites in Cairo.

Bulgarian Official Arrives in Cairo 18 February

NC182137 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2040 GMT 18 Feb 87

[Text] Cairo, 18 Feb (MENA) — Bulgarian Minister of Agriculture Aleksandur Bitkov [title as received] arrived in Cairo from Khartoum this evening with a delegation for a 2-day visit.

The Bulgarian official said on arrival that he will meet with Dr Yusuf Walid, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and land reclamation, to discuss promoting bilateral relations, particularly in the sphere of agricultural land reclamation and horticulture; exchange of expertise in this field; and the need for increased trade between the two countries.

The Bulgarian minister said his visit to Sudan was within the framework of a joint cooperation committee session, which discussed bolstering Sudanese-Bulgarian economic relations.

Foreign Ministry Group Leaves for Yugoslavia

NC212212 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1535 GMT 21 Feb 87

[Excerpt] Cairo, 21 Feb (MENA) — Ambassador 'Amru Musa, head of the Foreign Ministry's International Organizations Department, left Cairo this afternoon at the head of a Foreign Ministry delegation that is representing Egypt at the preparatory meeting for the conference of security and cooperation in Belgrade. The conference is to be held by the foreign ministers of the nonaligned countries that border on the Mediterranean Sea and is scheduled to follow the preparatory meeting that starts its sessions tomorrow at the level of experts. Fifteen nonaligned countries, the majority of which are Arab ones, will attend this meeting.

In a predeparture statement, Ambassador Musa said he is carrying a message from Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, to Raif Dizdarevic, the Yugoslav federal secretary for foreign affairs. The message concerns bilateral relations and the coordination of efforts within the framework of the Nonaligned Movement. [passage omitted]

Reportage on Visit by DPRK Assembly Official

Arrives in Cairo

NC190905 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0655 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] Cairo, 19 Feb (MENA) — Yang Hyong-sop, chairman of the Standing Committee of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly, and his accompanying delegation arrived in Cairo this morning on a 4-day visit to Egypt.

Following his arrival, Yang Hyong-stop said he is carrying a message from Korean leader Kim Il-song to President Husni Mubarak. He added that current Egyptian-Korean relations are firm, close, and developed, relations reflected in the warm ties between the Egyptian and Korean presidents. The Korean official noted that the promotion of parliamentary relations between the two countries, as well as international problems of mutual interest, will be among the important issues discussed during his visit to Egypt.

Former People's Assembly Speaker Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub, who received the Korean guest, said this visit is in response to one which an Egyptian People's Assembly delegation made to Korea. Dr al-Mahjub praised existing bilateral relations, affirming that they are strong and close. He added that there is a great deal of understanding, as well as old ties, between President Mubarak and Korean leader Kim Il-song. He noted that President Mubarak himself has visited North Korea.

Mubarak Meets Officials

NC220911 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0900 GMT 22 Feb 87

[Text] Cairo, 22 Feb (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Yang Hyong-sop, chairman of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly Standing Committee, and his accompanying delegation, this morning.

Official Describes Meeting

NC221028 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0943 GMT 22 Feb 87

[Text] Cairo, 22 Feb (MENA) — Yang Hyong-sop, chairman of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly Standing Committee, has said during his meeting with President Mubarak he reiterated his country's unchanging position toward the issues of peace and a just solution to the Middle East conflict. Hyong-sop said his country fully supports Egyptian efforts to find a fair solution to the Middle East problem.

Yang Hyong-sop, who had an audience with President Mubarak earlier today, said he had conveyed to President Mubarak the best regards of Korean leader Kim Il-song and that President Mubarak had asked him to convey his greetings to the Korean leader.

Delegation Departs

NC231705 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1640 GMT 23 Feb 87

[Text] Cairo, 23 Feb (MENA) — The DPRK Supreme People's Assembly delegation, led by Yang Hyong-sop, chairman of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly Standing Committee, left Cairo for Sofia this evening following a week-long official visit.

During their stay, members of the delegation held talks with senior Egyptian officials, including Consultative Council Speaker Dr 'Ali Lutfi and NDP deputy leader Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub. They also met with President Husni Mubarak.

Mubarak Envoy Returns From Meeting With Habre

NC212107 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1735 GMT 21 Feb 87

[Text] Cairo, 21 Feb (MENA) — Ambassador Muhammad al-Khazindar, President Mubarak's special envoy, returned from Ndjamena today after delivering a handwritten message from President Mubarak to Chadian President Hissein Habre.

Upon arrival, Ambassador al-Khazindar said he met with President Habre and conveyed President Mubarak's message to him. He added that President Habre expressed his appreciation to President Mubarak, the Egyptian Government, and all Egyptians for following Chadian developments so closely.

He also stated the Chadian leader stressed that the war in Chad is a war of liberation to drive out aggressive troops. Habre asserted that national reconciliation was achieved by the opposition forces' return to the central government.

The Chadian leader also asserted that the situation now lies in favor of the Chadian forces, whose losses are small in relation to those of the Libyan troops. He said the Chadian forces have seized 100 tanks and 4 (Tucano) aircraft.

In conclusion, Ambassador al-Khazindar noted that President Habre will send his response to President Mubarak's message by a personal envoy this week.

Chadian Foreign Minister Arrives in Cairo

NC242035 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1750 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] Cairo, 24 Feb (MENA) — Chadian Foreign Minister Lassou Gouara arrived in Cairo tonight on an official visit that will last several days.

Jouara said he carries a message to President Husni Mubarak from Chadian President Hissein Habre. Regarding the situation in Chad, he said the Libyan bombardment is continuing and clashes are still raging in the areas recently liberated by the Chadian forces.

During his stay in Egypt, the Chadian foreign minister is scheduled to meet with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Meets With 'Abd al-Majid

NC242043 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1955 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] Cairo, 24 Feb (MENA) — Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met this evening with Lassou Gouara, Chadian minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, who arrived in Cairo today carrying a message for President Husni Mubarak from Chadian President Hissein Habre. The two officials discussed all aspects of Egyptian-Chadian relations and ways of promoting them, as well as the issues of common concern to both countries, particularly the developments in northern Chad.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid affirmed Egypt's support for the Chadian people, their legitimate government under President Hissein Habre's leadership, and the government's efforts to preserve the Chadian people's unity and sovereignty over their entire land.

The Chadian minister expressed his country's appreciation for Egypt's stand in support of Chad, and lauded the progress of Egyptian-Chadian relations in various areas.

Ugandan Military Delegation Arrives for Talks

NC201038 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1020 GMT 20 Feb 87

[Text] Cairo, 20 Feb (MENA) — Ronald Bata, Ugandan secretary of state for defense, and his accompanying delegation arrived in Cairo this morning on a 5-day visit to Egypt. A round of Egyptian-Ugandan military talks will be held tomorrow, Saturday. Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, will lead the Egyptian representatives at these talks, while Ronald Bata will lead the Ugandan side.

Major General Yahya al-Bahnasawi, commander of the Central Military Zone, met the Ugandan guest at the airport.

Talks Held on Military Ties

NC211101 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1033 GMT 21 Feb 87

[Excerpt] Cairo, 21 Feb (MENA) — Egyptian-Ugandan military discussions were held this morning. Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, headed the Egyptian side, and Dr Ronald Bata, minister of state for defense, headed the Ugandan delegation.

At the outset of the discussions, which dealt with ways of bolstering cooperation, particularly in the military field, Abu Ghazalah welcomed the Ugandan guest and his delegation, emphasizing Egypt is prepared to meet all of Uganda's needs and work toward bolstering friendly bilateral relations. Dr Bata responded, saying his country looks forward to the development of cooperation between Egypt and Uganda. [passage omitted]

Mubarak Receives Group Head

NC231120 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 23 Feb 87

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received the Ugandan minister of state for defense at noon today. Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, Egyptian deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, was also present at the meeting.

Commander of Somali Naval Forces Arrives 24 Feb

NC242252 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2240 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Excerpt] Cairo, 24 Feb (MENA) — Commodore Sa'd 'Abdallah, commander of the Somali Naval Forces, arrived in Cairo tonight on a visit to Egypt that will last several days. During his stay, the Somali official will meet with Vice Admiral 'Ali Jad, commander of the Egyptian Naval Forces, to discuss ways to strengthen cooperation between the two countries. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Stresses Production for Export

NC251804 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1445 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] Cairo, 25 Feb (MENA) — Egyptian Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi has affirmed the government's interest in developing exports in compliance with President Husni Mubarak's letter of designation and his address to the People's Assembly and the Consultative Council, and in implementation of the official government statement.

Dr 'Atif Sidqi held a news conference today to announce new measures to facilitate exports and encourage exporters. In attendance were the minister of economy and foreign trade and the minister of finance. The prime minister said the development of Egyptian exports requires that Egypt's economy move from the export of surplus production to production specifically intended for export, once the requirements of local consumption are met. Dr Sidqi declared that the decisions made to encourage Egyptian exports demonstrate the government's increasing confidence in the private sector's ability to produce exports efficiently and responsibly. He noted that they also seek to meet the Egyptian exporters' wishes in a democratic way. The decisions were made after several meetings with exporters were held by the Ministry of Economy, represented by the Egyptian Committee in Charge of Exports and Imports; the Ministry of Finance, represented by its Taxes and Customs Department; and the Ministry of Agriculture, represented by the Agricultural Quarantine Organization.

Dr Sidqi said further decisions to facilitate export procedures and encourage exporters will be announced. He said the results of these decisions will be monitored continuously, so that additional decisions can be made if necessary.

Dr Yusri Mustafa, minister of economy and foreign trade, said at the news conference that the issue of developing Egyptian exports has been a subject of a biding concern to the ministers. He noted that three committees have been established to study the various aspects of the issue, to determine how best to promote production for export, and to prepare a sound plan for the purpose. They have also been tasked to expand the Ministry of Economy's mission to include the development of exports, rather than simply their control.

Further Communique, Report on Gulf Fighting

Communique No 2,584

JN251756 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1700 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Communique No 2,584 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 25 February 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. This homeland will remain strong and supported by God, protecting its holy places and proud of its leadership and its people's sacrifices. Its territory will also remain chaste thanks to the efforts of its sons in the brave Armed Forces. Regardless of the enemy's deeds, charlatanism, and lies, their fate will be a decisive defeat, God willing. The following is a summary of activities for last night and today:

1. From noon yesterday until noon today, the enemy sent large groups of its scoundrels to intercept one of our formations in the III Army Corps sector. Our brave men confronted the enemy groups with the determination of believers in God and the homeland, as defenders of the people's dignity, and with the spirit of leader Saddam Husayn's heroes. Through a splendid combat performance supported by the heroic artillery of our III and VII Army Corps, by our gigantic Air Force, and by the daring Army gunships, our men completely annihilated the enemy groups without even giving them a chance to escape.

Thus, the scoundrel Khomeyniites received a new blow in addition to other heavy losses, and the situation was settled in favor of our victorious forces. Blessed be the men of this heroic formation and all the honest men of the Muhammad al-Qasim Forces. Praise be to God for His victory. God is the supporter of believers.

2. Today our aircraft launched 23 combat missions, in which they scored destructive blows against the scoundrels in the areas of operation and set ablaze enemy equipment, weapons, and vehicles. Our brave hawks then returned with their planes safely and triumphantly to base, praise be to God.

3. In 42 combat sorties today, our brave [helicopter] knights directed their fire at the enemy herds in the areas of operation and destroyed a number of enemy positions, weapons, and equipment. Our knights then returned safely to base, praise be to God.

4. At 1200 [0900 GMT] yesterday, an enemy helicopter attempted to approach our international border in the VII Army Corps sector. Our ground defenses confronted the enemy helicopter and shot it down. It was seen falling in flames before our units inside Iranian territory.

The heroic VII Army Corps men directed artillery, tank, mortar, and other weapon fire at the Khomeyniite scoundrels and inflicted new losses. They destroyed four enemy vehicles, some of which loaded with personnel, and they killed their occupants; they killed six scoundrels and wounded others; they destroyed four positions and killed a number of enemy personnel; and they destroyed one shovel [preceding word in English] and three ammunition dumps. God bless the glorious VII Army Corps men for their continuous and generous support to this dear country.

5. An enemy group tried to approach our positions east of the Maysan sector. The brave IV Army Corps men confronted the group and forced it to flee. In the same sector, six enemy personnel were killed, and one observation post and personnel site was destroyed.

6. In the II Army Corps central sector, seven enemy positions were destroyed, and their personnel were killed or wounded. In another position, a number of enemy personnel were also killed or wounded. The enemy was seen evacuating its losses.

7. The vile Khomeyniites shelled residential areas in the steadfast city of Basra with long-range artillery. As a result, civilian properties were damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 25 February 1987

Iran Shells Basra

JN261000 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0945 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] Basra, 26 Feb (INA) — The Iranian regime today and for the fourth successive day shelled the city of Basra with the long-range artillery. The INA correspondent in Al-Basra Governorate said that the residential areas in the center of Basra have been subjected to long-range artillery shelling since dawn today. He said the hostile shelling is continuing now. The shelling has martyred and wounded a number of citizens and caused material damage to their property.

Thus, the Iranian enemy confirms its nonadherence [to the conditions of] Iraq's decision not to bomb Iranian cities, which went into effect at 1200 on Thursday, 19 February, for 2 weeks.

Ramadan Receives SFRY's Janez Semljaric, Message

JN221826 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 22 Feb 87

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, today received Janez Zemljaric, vice president of the Yugoslav Federal Executive Council and head of the Yugoslav side to the joint Iraq-SFRY committee for economic, trade, and technical cooperation, and the accompanying delegation. During the meeting, Zemljaric conveyed a message from SFRY President Sinan Hasani to President Saddam Husayn dealing with cooperation between Iraq and the SFRY and ways to promote and develop this cooperation in all fields in the interests of the two countries. The first deputy prime minister affirmed President Saddam Husayn's eagerness to develop relations with the SFRY, his excellency's pride in these excellent relations, and Iraq's desire to promote and broaden these relations in all fields to serve the common interest.

During the meeting, attended by Hasan 'Ali, RCC member, trade minister, and head of the Iraqi side to the joint Iraq-SFRY committee, the two sides discussed the developing bilateral relations and ways to promote them. The meeting was also attended by 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim, vice chairman of the Iraqi side to the joint Iraq-SFRY committee, and the SFRY ambassador in Baghdad.

'Aziz Receives Zemljaric

JN231502 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1420 GMT 23 Feb 87

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Feb (INA) — Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received Janez Zemljaric, vice president of the Yugoslav Federal Executive Council and head of the Yugoslav side to the joint Iraq-SFRY committee for economic, trade, and technical cooperation, here today. During the meeting, they discussed bilateral relations and ways to promote them, developments in the Iraq-Iran war, the situation in the region, and issues of common interest.

Five To Hang for Taking Bribes From Companies

JN161537 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1415 GMT 16 Feb 87

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Feb (INA) — A republican decree issued here today announced the endorsement of the death sentence by hanging for five criminals, including former Baghdad Mayor 'Abd al-Wahhab Muhammad Latif al-Mufti. The republican decree said Eng Fahmi Jirjis Fathallah, Eng Sabri William Sabri, and Eng Muhammad Salih Hasan Muhammad 'Ali, who are working for the general corporation for roads and bridges, and Sami Majid Iliya Yasawi were convicted by the revolutionary court for receiving bribes and commissions from foreign companies operating in Iraq, in cooperation with other fugitives, in return for giving them information about projects to be implemented in Iraq.

Investigations have shown that these companies used this information in submitting tenders and received large sums of hard currency, which they deposited in foreign banks outside Iraq. The republican decree also said that criminal 'Abd al-Wahhab Muhammad Latif al-Mufti, the former mayor of Baghdad, has admitted that since 1979 he dealt with a number of agents of foreign companies operating in Iraq in return for a commission or a share of the profit in cooperation with other Iraqi fugitives. He also said he gave forged documents to several people who have nothing to do with the Baghdad municipality. The documents showed them to be officials of the municipality and on official missions so they could obtain travel permits.

Dudin Discusses West Bank Plan, PLO Meetings

JN191040 Amman THE JERUSALEM STAR in English 19-25 Feb 87 pp 4,5

[Interview with Marwan Dudin, Jordanian minister of occupied territories affairs by *The Jerusalem Star* editor in chief Usamah al-Sharif — in Amman; date not given]

[Text] *The Star*: Can you update us on the latest concerning the proposed plan for development of the West Bank and Gaza Strip?

Mr. Dudin: The Jordanian attempt to interfere in the economic and social life of our people in occupied territories in a positive way is one that is not going to be free from our side, because of the fact that the land and the people are under occupation. Jordan, being a state that lost the 1967 war, and had to pull out of the West Bank, has had a tremendous amount of experience because since 1950, it (the West Bank) has become and is still officially an integral part of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. We haven't had any stoppage or halt in relationship with West Bankers since day two, which is 6 June. We handled the situation on an emergency basis for the first few months. Very few of us were aware at all levels, in the first few days of the aftermath of defeat, of how the final shape of things will be. A ministerial committee was set up to handle the emergency situation on purely humanitarian basis. Pieces of land were picked up immediately close to water resources and people were relocated in (refugee) camps.

After 20 months of this emergency situation, we became aware that duty number one was to organize the exodus. We became more experienced, not only in receiving people and giving them immediate help, but also in putting on ourselves the proper constraints to counteract the basic Israeli objectives of having people evicted from their land. The claim made by some of why should Jordan interfere now is to us nonsensical. This (the West Bank) is an integral part of our responsibilities. But at the same time, we are a member of the Arab League and we know that many complications got piled up on the Palestinian issue and that there was a 1974 (Arab summit) resolution. People must be able to see that there is no contradiction whatsoever between our acceptance to abide by Arab consensus in 1974, with regards to the PLO, the sole representative of the Palestinian people and between our responsibilities to our people in the West Bank.

The fact is that we have a keen and genuine interest in the West Bank and consequently in people staying there, which we call steadfastness and for which we are having a new look towards dealing with the West Bank on an intervention basis in their economic and social life through a programme that sees things a little bit ahead.

The two-decade microscopic occupation, by a power that has never been paralleled in the history of occupations, is one that consumes territory by getting rid of people living on it. We are historically aware of this and have developed an ability to put the proper counter-constraints, sometimes even on the movement of our own people to foil the plans of Israelis. We have statistically proven for the last few years that the counter-constraints we are putting are achieving success by categorizing traffic and limiting it to the necessities of life and by trying to make the movement on the bridge one that enhances steadfastness. And this is another indirect answer from us to people who come and say why the bridges are open. We don't want to get in the history of why they are open, but we know that since the decision was not immediately taken after the 1967 war, the best thing is what we are doing. The best of the worst.

Q: Much has been said on the Jordanian contribution to the projects outlined for the West Bank and Gaza. His Majesty King Husayn in his recent visit to France and Italy sought to invite in contributions from these countries. Both France and Italy have expressed their willingness to finance some of the projects. How much is each country pledging and are there any strings attached to their participation?

A: Definitely the strings are not there and we do not accept what can be — in a negative sense — strings. But there is a kind of understanding (with the donor countries) how and when to put a cash flow and where to spend such funds. When it comes to constraints in the political sense, we don't accept them. Both countries (France and Italy) did not get into that area at all directly or indirectly. They made clear their commitment to be with us and we told the French for instance that old amount of a few million francs is negligible to what we hoped to get and they agreed to at least double what they promised. The intention is there and it is great and we feel confident that we are going to get what we expect and even a little bit extra.

Italy is contributing without any conditions whatsoever and they specified areas of their interest like sanitary projects, hospitals and what goes with it, the welfare side and training in the vocational area. I cannot state how much money is coming because this is in the working. Technicians from both sides are working this out. But we are going ahead with some of these projects, which will be carried out by Arab contractors in the West Bank. Our procedure is solid and similar to what we have in the East Bank based on biddings and tendering so people will know that it is a fair game. This method has been explained to these prospective donors or lenders and contributors. But at the same time a figure that we can be sure of now is not yet reached. But we are going ahead.

Q: But what are these countries exactly? Are they donors, lenders or investors?

A: Well, the Italians are mainly interested in funding projects that are of a non-profit nature. Projects that they know the Jordanian Government on its own will not finance in the form of loans. But we know that these projects will contribute to our people's steadfastness and when these projects take place, there will be less unemployment because the upper calibre of Palestinian manpower, the subtechnicians and engineers will find a place to work.

Q: Does this enthusiasm apply to other EEC countries like the United Kingdom and West Germany?

A: The British committed themselves to money which they are now considering to double or to increase to an amount close to our hopes. In the pipeline, we received 5.5 million pounds from the 10 million pounds that was committed. We are looking out for more. I am not clear about the West Germans. But I know they have been committed, even before the plan, directly to recipients in the West Bank. I know that on a bilateral basis, Germany is one country that comes almost first in the amount of aid that comes to us. We had a long practical experience and I don't think it will be difficult to earmark part of what they give us in loans or direct help to our plan for the western part of the country.

Q: As I understand it, the United States has promised an extra $4.5 million to its planned $18 million aid package for 1987, for develoment projects in the occupied area. Is this figure standing and has any of this money arrived yet?

A: We already received the $4.5 million and we are about to receive an additional $7 million. And we expect a $30 million more instead of $18 million. It is one of the healthy signs, and for a change in our relationship with the U.S. Congress, that when the U.S. Administration is proposing a figure, the Congress is making a debate to increase it. This is partly due to the Jordanian campaign, which is bearing fruit. We don't want to create false hopes, but we just want to say to those who don't want to see us succeed in anything that we are succeeding whether they like it or not.

We are achieving a lot of what we intended to. We want the whole world to know that one of the highlights of the trip of our head of state to any country will be the programme for helping the occupied territories. I am afraid that so many people will fail to see that it is not the money involved that we are basically after; it is to help people under occupation to survive on their land. This campaign will never cease as long as there is occupation. We will not allow the Palestinian issue to be turned into a stagnant issue just because we are in a state of no peace and no war.

I hope that colleagues in the Arab League and the PLO and those who are politically mature, would realize that the Jordanian way is the only one that is left and the sole pragmatic approach that will hopefully end up with our keeping an identity that is basically Arab Muslim, that is Palestinian entrenched in any part of Palestine.

Q: The Israeli Government had on a number of occasions expressed, to put it mildly, its reservations on the Jordanian development plan. How worried are you of Israel's positions and what can they do to foil this plan?

A: We are worried and if I say we are not, then definitely I am mistaken. But we have to realize that for their own (Israeli) internal purposes generations which were supposed to forget, are in fact, generations that are becoming more fanatic inside Israel. Now they are playing with us the information gimmick of handling their media in a way to show that we are collaborators who have willingly accepted to see part of our country under occupation and at the same time dealing indirectly with them. They do this and we know it and we are sad. Because, I am not accusing our people of being ignorant, but it (the Israeli media) keeps banging into the heads of simple people who are sometimes politically naive, and some of them fall into this Israeli trap which wants to imply that this particular country with the leadership that is specifically Hashemite, with the man who started Arab awakening at the beginning of this century, the late King al-Sharif Husayn of Mecca, who is buried near Al-Aqsa Mosque, is one leadership that fails to be aware of what Jerusalem is and what Palestine is and what the Arab nationality is.

We hope that these information gimmicks will not mar the image of this country's leadership. If it does temporarily, then we are sure that the time will come when this will be history altogether.

The Israelis make us worried, sometimes because we feel that they like to impose certain local leaderships. We believe that spending money in the West Bank will end up in easing in a way or another pressure on the occupying administration itself. But we must be pragmatic because they don't care if they fail to do anything to help in certain areas like education and health since they are still an occupying authority which has broken all international conventions from Geneva and onwards.

Q: Administratively, the Gaza Strip was run by the Egyptians before its occupation in 1967. The Jordanian plan has incorporated it in its development scheme and recently thousands of Gazans were given Jordanian passports. How was this point handled between both governments and how will the future of the Strip be decided if and when an international peace conference is held?

A: When it comes to Gaza and its people, one must understand that the Egyptians are not helping not because they don't want to. Their position is very difficult and the restoration of Sinai and the human settlements there, whether in the form of big cities like El-Arish or smaller bedouin areas, are depleting whatever extra resources they have. It (Egypt) is a great country with a great tradition and we are still hopeful in its leadership with an outlook for a de facto return from its previous unilateral path. I want to assure you that we not only have no problem whatsoever with our Egyptian counterparts when it comes to matters pertaining to helping the Gazans. We are almost asked by them on certain specific occasions to interfere when it comes to exports and helping in the traffic of citrus products and in other matters. Our feeling is that our Egyptian colleagues are not only very encouraging to us when it comes to assisting Gazans but almost show a sense of relief that we are actually indirectly or directly not only helping the Gazans but them in that connection.

As regarding the future, we agreed with the Egyptians and many Arabs and it is hopefully going to snowball into an Arab consensus, that talking too much about what will happen after we hopefully get rid of occupation is a luxury. When you talk about self-determination and you are still under occupation, it is a political luxury in our opinion. Self-determination is not taken from anybody because it is our right.

When there is occupation, objective number one is the withdrawal and the end of occupation. After that who will argue with you when it comes to whether within the accord with Jordan you like to have a confederate relationship or not. This is completely up to the people and this has been the position of Jordan long time ago.

So when it comes to this particular point, we and the Egyptians see things identically one hundred per cent. That it is very much a side issue. One that dilutes instead of concentrating and enhances our efforts about ending occupation.

Q: The joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee is meeting after a long period of inactivity. Now that Saudi Arabia has paid an amount of $9 million, do you see a change in Arab states' commitments and what is the future of the Joint Committee?

A: When it comes to areas of work within the Palestine cause and the issue itself I would rather not talk about the future, but rather like to address what practically and pragmatically is in front of me. The Joint Committee was a device which the Palestinians and Jordanians formulated together in response to an Arab call in the Baghdad (summit), that management of funds received from Arab Gulf countries, of about a $100 million to be spent annually in the West Bank, should be run by both the PLO and Jordan. Both sides made a formula of work and called in the Joint Committee to help in the steadfastness of our people under occupation. We never thought we could carry on with our own Jordanian resources for much longer than we did. We were happy to work jointly with the PLO and we did receive in the period of seven years instead of the $700 million something close to $400 million.

A little while before we took the decision of discontinuing political co-ordination with the PLO, the fund resources were almost depleted and it came to a stand still. All what has been said about connecting this with that (the fund with the development plan) was nonsense, because although we stopped political co-ordination with the PLO we did not stop talking to the PLO and we did not stop recognizing the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinian people. And whenever we had recycled money coming into the fund we contacted each other and spent the money on projects.

The fund's allocations will not contradict our five year plan because our plan is one that can take along its side any help that goes into the West Bank, and we encourage countries to directly help institutions and organizations in the West Bank.

As for the future I don't want to belittle Arab contribution. On the contrary, the Saudi Arabians have been contributing in all directions whether to the fund or our plan, but I must remind you that what we had received (lately) was the third and last installment of the Saudi commitment for that particular fund for 1985. So I must say that I am not very optimistic about the future.

Q: Do you expect a better summer for West Bank and Gaza farmers this year as a result of your efforts to open Arab and European markets?

A: Frankly speaking, when it comes to this subject I don't want to raise any hopes. I still think that one of the most competitive trades in the world is in the area of agricultural produce and especially the perishables. I am sorry to say that all the big talk in the West Bank and Gaza and even here about extra production is still in that area of perishables, which makes you in no position to put pressure when you negotiate with buyers because of the factor of time. I think the Palestinian farmer should be subsidized because the Saudi farmer is subsidized and so is the Egyptian. Even the American farmer is subsidized especially in strategic grains like wheat. What we ought to think of seriously when it comes to helping the Palestinian farmer is subsidizing their exports because this is the only way of making him capable of being competitive.

Q: What is your answer to those who say the West Bank is increasingly becoming a bone of contention between Jordan and the PLO?

A: I say no, I don't think it is becoming so. Those who say so are acting under the umbrella of the occupying authority to very intelligently lure our people into the trap. Some papers in the West Bank, which spread such news are well-known for their financial dependency on outside sources.

Arab Council Head Reports on West Bank Economy

JN181103 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 17 Feb 87

[From "The Occupied Homeland: News and Views" program]

[Text] The Arabic Economic Unity Council, which is based in Amman, follows economic conditions in the occupied territories with great interest. These conditions feature prominently in reports prepared by the Council's secretary general and submitted to the Council's successive sessions. Recently, the secretary general prepared a general report on the latest economic developments in the occupied territories.

Mahdi al-'Ubaydi, secretary general of the Arab Economic Unity Council, has summed up for the program highlights of this report concerning the occupied territories. He said:

[Begin Al-'Ubaydi recording] The Zionist entity's exacerbating economic crises, particularly represented by high inflation, heavy direct and indirect taxes, continuous fluctuations in the shekel's exchange rates and continuous reductions of its value, and the absence of a qualified financial and banking system in the occupied Arab territories, all lead to negative effects on the economy of the occupied Arab territories. In addition to the bad economic conditions in the Zionist entity — conditions that are exacerbating year after year — we find the authorities of that regime have taken several arbitrary economic measures aimed at emptying the occupied territory of its legitimate population by confiscating vast areas of agricultural land and other areas to build settlements and by limiting the quantities of water used for irrigation and watering fruit trees.

All these restrictions have led and are leading to a reduction of cultivated land and consequently of agricultural produce and Arab citizens' revenue from their lands. This is in addition to levying heavy taxes, which increases the price of the produce so it cannot compete with Israeli produce.

This is as far as agriculture is concerned. As for industrial production in the occupied territory, this has also receded because of restrictions on establishing new major industries and investing in the industrial field. This is in addition to the heavy taxes levied on Arab industrial products in the occupied territories and flooding local markets in the occupied Arab territories with Israeli industrial products that are very competitive because they are subsidized. Regarding manpower, there is high unemployment, especially among professionals. Israel goes for cheap, unskilled Arab labor to get the kind of manual work rejected by Israeli citizens. In this way, Israel saves Israeli workers and citizens for military action and aggression against the Arab nation.

Thus, we find the Zionist entity's authorities are working by stages to merge the economy of the occupied Arab territories with the Zionist economy. They are making the economy of the occupied Arab territories unimportant and solely geared toward serving the interests of the Zionist economy.

Thus, the Arab Economic Unity Council is paying special attention to the economic conditions of our brother Arab citizens in the occupied territories. The Council has issued several resolutions in its successive sessions urging Arab states to open their markets to products of the occupied Arab territories and to give these products all the facilities and necessary exemptions to help their marketing while taking the principles and rules of the Arab boycott of Israel into consideration. In this way we can back the steadfastness of our brother Arabs in occupied Palestine and help them remain in their homeland. [end recording].

Nabulus Citizens Thank King Husayn for Support

JN161709 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Feb 87

[Text] The sons of the Nabulus Governorate have addressed a cable of thanks and amity to His Majesty King Husayn expressing their appreciation for his majesty's continuous support for the steadfastness of the kinfolk in the occupied Arab territories. They praised the decision to support those working in the field of education who were appointed after 1967. The following is the text of the cable signed by 700 citizens of the Nabulus Governorate:

Now that your great heart has embraced us all, the sons of this homeland, with your amity and care by issuing instructions to your wise government to bolster the steadfastness of your sons working in the field of education who were appointed after 1967, we the sons of the steadfast Nabulus Governorate present to your exalted office our deep thanks and amity and ask God to preserve you as a supporter and an asset to the sons of the one Jordanian-Palestinian people and to guide your steps toward achieving your glorious Arab nation's objectives.

Reportage on Visit by Canadian Parliamentarians

Delegation Arrives

JN212105 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 Feb 87

[Text] A Canadian parliamentary delegation led by (Mark Ponel), member of the Canadian Senate, arrived in Amman this evening in response to an official invitation from House of Representatives Speaker 'Akif al-Fayiz.

On arrival, (Ponel) said his country shows great interest in Middle East events, particularly the Jordanian stand on these events. He added the delegation's visit aims at becoming aquainted with the Jordanian stand on developments in the region to convey this stand to the Canadian parliament and officials. He pointed out his country is interested in improving its relations with the Arab world, and the delegation's visit to Jordan comes as part of the endeavor to increase cooperation between the two countries and to show a desire to contribute to promoting peace efforts in the region in which Jordan is playing a prominent role.

The Canadian delegation will meet with Senate President Ahmad al-Lawzi; House of Representatives Speaker 'Akif al-Fayiz; Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri; and a number of senior officials. The delegation will also visit a number of cultural and tourist sites.

Meets Planning Minister

JN221557 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Feb 87

[Text] Amman — Planning Minister Tahir Kan'an met today with a Canadian parliamentary delegation led by (Mark Ponel), member of the Canadian Senate, currently visiting Jordan. The minister reviewed the successive Jordanian development plans, the features of the current plan and how it is related to economic indicators, and the volume of investment in each sector according to its priority and contribution to fulfilling future prospects. When reviewing bilateral economic and trade relations, Dr Kan'an affirmed the importance of bolstering and promoting the ties of cooperation between the two friendly countries in view of bilateral agreements such as the trade, economic, and cooperation agreement, and other agreements in the field of oil exploration.

The minister explained the objectives of the development program for the occupied territories aimed at alleviating the kinfolk's suffering and entrenching the inhabitants through the implementation of basic and necessary projects, and the tackling of some social and economic phenomena such as unemployment, emigration, and the economic restrictions imposed by the occupation authorities. He answered questions posed by the delegation members, pointing out the current plan aims at reducing the levels of expected unemployment, disorder in the labor market, the discord between public and private expenditure and consumption so local produce can meet consumers' demands, and inflation in the balance of commodities and services; and increasing local revenues in the state budget, and checking the increase in recurrent central government expenditures.

Meets Al-Fayiz, Al-Lawzi

JN222115 Amman Television in English 2000 GMT 22 Feb 87

[Text] Senate Speaker Ahmad al-Lawzi said today Jordan believes the Palestinian cause is the core of the Middle East crisis and the absence of a just and comprehensive solution to the problem keeps the region in a state of constant conflict and opens the door for devastating wars. Speaking during a meeting with a visiting Canadian parliamentary delegation, Mr al-Lawzi said that Jordan under His Majesty King Husayn firmly believes that peace should be established in the Middle East after decades of disputes and a series of wars launched by Israel against the Palestinian people and other Arab countries. The Senate speaker reiterated that an international peace conference on the Middle East is the sole way to reach a just and comprehensive peace settlement in the region. Canada, he noted, constitutes a major link between Europe and the United States and could thus play a distinctive role in pushing Middle East peace efforts ahead.

In reply, the head of the Canadian delegation said his country became more interested in Middle East affairs following the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon. He said the Canadian Government is aware that the Middle East conflict and the Iraq-Iran war threaten peace and security in the world, including Canada which lies a few thousand miles away. He also said his delegation's visit provides a good opportunity for the consolidation of Jordanian-Canadian cooperation ties.

Parliament Speaker Mr 'Akif al-Fayiz today explained to the visiting Canadian parliamentary delegation that Jordan's Middle East peace policies are based on the need for complete Israeli withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied in 1967, including Arab Jerusalem and the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions, especially 242 and 338. He noted that His Majesty King Husayn proposed a UN sponsored international peace conference on Middle East peace as the most effective way to achieve a settlement. Mr al-Fayiz also said Israeli intransigence and U.S. support to the Israeli position have been the main obstacles which hindered peace efforts in the region. On the situation in the occupied Arab territories, Mr al-Fayiz said the Israeli measures there contravene human rights, principles, and international law. He called on the Canadian parliamentarians to hold contacts with the Arab population in the occupied areas with a view to having a first hand idea about their suffering. On the Iraq-Iran war, the speaker of parliament said the war threatens the whole region in general, and the Arab Gulf countries in particular.

On his part, the head of the Canadian delegation said he and his colleagues were fully briefed on the Palestinian question and the situation in the region and would convey their impressions to the Canadian Senate and House of Commons and to the Canadian people and Government.

Holds Talks With Al-Rifa'i, Dudin

JN231339 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Feb 87

[Text] Amman — Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i received the Canadian Senate and House of Commons delegation currently visiting Jordan in his office today. The meeting was attended by the head of the House of Representatives' Foreign Relations Committee, the parliament's secretary general, and the Jordanian ambassador to Canada.

Marwan Dudin, minister of occupied territory affairs, also received the head and members of the Canadian parliamentary delegation in his office today. Dudin reviewed the situation in the occupied Arab territory and the government's efforts to help citizens confront the difficult circumstances they are experiencing. He said the government has not stopped supporting the citizens since 1967 by continuing to pay the wages of employees in the official establishments and helping to improve educational, health, and social services.

The minister added the government's recent economic and social development program is aimed at organizing this support to benefit the largest sector of citizens and provide services to the deprived areas of the occupied territory. Dudin explained the Israeli occupation authorities are violating the simplest laws and norms through their practices in the occupied Arab territories. He explained the occupation authorities' measures, which are considered a flagrant violation of human rights, including large-scale detentions, the closing of academic institutions, travel bans, and curfews imposed on entire cities.

In his remarks to the Canadian parliamentary delegation, Dudin reviewed the Israeli settlement policy in the occupied Arab territories which, he said, has recently focused on Arab population centers, especially the big towns, to build settlements there.

The minister added the Israeli authorities have seized an area of 2,781,724 dunums up until the beginning of this month. This is more than half of the West Bank area. He explained the settlement policy is aimed at geographically isolating various areas of the occupied territories from each other and surrounding them to make it easier to control them. He pointed out settlements constitute an obstacle to the achievement of the just, durable peace we seek.

Dudin affirmed Jordan's stand is based on exchanging land for peace in accordance with UN Resolutions 242 and 338. He said this peace can only be achieved through an international conference to be attended by all the parties to the region's dispute and the five permanent UN Security Council members, and this is what Jordan advocates.

Meets Crown Prince

JN232055 Amman Television Service in English 2000 GMT 23 Feb 87

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, today received a visiting Canadian delegation. His royal highness briefed the delegation on current developments in the Arab and international scenes. The meeting was attended by the Jordanian ambassador to Canada.

AFP: Kan‘an Comments on Hizballah Killings

NC251851 Paris AFP in English 1847 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Excerpts] Beirut, Feb 25 (AFP) — A total of 16 persons were wounded Wednesday evening in Beirut when a car bomb exploded in Shi‘ite southern suburbs, first reports said.

The explosion occurred near the highway to Beirut International Airport, where Syrian troops have been deployed since Sunday.

Earlier, a mass funeral was held in the city's Shi‘ite district for 23 fundamentalists killed Tuesday evening by Syrian troops.

Syrian General Ghazi Kan‘an announced earlier that his troops would not enter the Shi‘ite sector.

Some 30,000 supporters of the pro-Iranian Shi‘ite fundamentalist Hizballah Party took part in the funeral procession. [passage omitted]

Gen. Kan‘an, who heads Syrian military intelligence in Lebanon, told *Agence France-Presse* that after taking up their position in and around the barracks, the soldiers were "surprised by sustained firing."

"They riposted," he said. "Militiamen were killed and a Syrian soldier was wounded.

"We regret that there were casualties, but we had warned all sides that we could not tolerate the presence of armed militiamen in the streets."

He said that, contrary to what was announced when Syrian troops entered West Beirut Sunday, the Syrians would not take control of the Shi‘ite southern suburb.

"The Syrian Army," he said, "is deployed in Beirut to end the fighting and the abuses of the militiamen of all sides, which is not the case with the southern suburb, where there is no fighting."

According to Lebanese press reports, meanwhile, 16 persons have been killed since the Syrians entered West Beirut, some shot during searches by Syrian troops, the others probably being Lebanese hostages shot by the militiamen before leaving the city now banned to them.

In Baghdad, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chief Yasir ‘Arafat said that the Syrian intervention in Beirut "is aimed at liquidating the PLO and wiping out the Palestinian camps in Lebanon." [passage omitted]

Hizballah on ‘Liquidation’

NC251249 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] The southern suburb of Beirut was in mourning today. Placards were put up denouncing the Syrian occupation army and the liquidation operations that left 22 Hizballah members dead in the Al-Bastah area yesterday evening. Their funeral will take place in the Al-Imam al-Rida Mosque in Bi‘r al-‘Abd today.

Hizballah sources have denied that these victims were killed in a clash or an armed confrontation. They declared it was an act of liquidation by the Syrians; the occupants of the Fathallah Barracks were assembled outside the building in preparation for withdrawal, and had put up no resistance whatsoever. Most of those killed, who included girls, died as a result of stab wounds.

Speaking on behalf of a group calling itself the Fathallah Martyrs Forces [Quwwat Shuhada' Fathallah], a caller to Radio Free Lebanon has threatened those who brought the Syrians into West Beirut with grave consequences if the Syrians do not withdraw within days. In this connection, he named Prime Minister Karami; Minister al-Huss; Speaker al-Husayni; and Shaykh ‘Abd al-Amir Qabalan. The caller said the blood of children and women shed in Al-Bastah will not have been shed in vain.

Fadlallah Demands Trial

NC251750 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] The funeral of 18 Hizballah members took place today amid strict security measures and after Hizballah gunmen had cut off the roads in the B‘ir al-‘Abd area. Taking part in the funeral procession from Imam al-Rida Mosque to the Al-Shahidayn cemetery on the airport road were 15,000 people, escorted by around 2,000 gunmen. An explosion was heard three hours after the funeral in the Al-Raml al‘Ali area near the Al-Rasul al-‘Azam Mosque.

Scholar Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, the spiritual guide of Hizballah, delivered a long speech in which he said that the current stage is very difficult and the march is very long. He described what had taken place in Al-Bastah as a barbaric massacre and not a security incident. Fadlallah added: If emotions are roused, then sedition will erupt again. If sedition erupts, then there are countless plans, both old and new, and countless international and regional ones. He said the perpetrators of this action, regardless of who they were, are against the security plan and the security of the people. He demanded that the perpetrators be brought to trial and warned that it will be difficult for the security plan to be realized if such actions are repeated.

Hizballah Leader on Incident

NC260703 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] [Hizballah leader] Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli has said the incident that left 23 Hizballah members dead shows there is an attempt to establish peace [sulh] with Israel. The incident, Al-Tufayli added, represents a translation into action of the support and blessings of the U.S. secretary of state. Al-Tufayli called on the Syrians to issue an apology expressing their repentance and making it clear that the incident was not premeditated.

Tehran Paper Cited on Syrian Intervention

NC260610 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] Citing diplomatic sources in Damascus, REUTER reports that Syria's intervention in Lebanon has taken Iran by surprise. According to the report, this Syrian step will undoubtedly undermine Syrian-Iranian relations. The agency also cites inhabitants in the southern suburb [of Beirut] as saying that Hizballah fighters have been placed on a maximum state of alert. REUTER notes that militia sources in the southern suburb have affirmed that the recent incident in Al-Basta has made it likely that Syria will send troops to the southern suburb.

In the first semi-official reaction from Tehran, the *Keyhan* newspaper comments on the events that took place in Al-Basta 2 days ago. According to the paper, the massacre that claimed the lives of 23 pro-Iranian fundamentalists was a mistake perpetrated by rebellious Syrian soldiers. The paper questions the soundness of Syria's intervention in Lebanon. *Keyhan*, which is supervised by Khomeyni's office, holds a number of Syrian soldiers responsible for the killing of 23 Hizballah fighters. These soldiers have completely ignored the interests of their country and government, the paper asserts.

More Reports on Security Situation in W. Beirut

Kan'an Asks Foreigners To Return

NC252032 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an [head of Syrian military intelligence in Lebanon] has affirmed in a statement to AFP that the Syrian security force in West Beirut will not enter the southern suburb. He called on foreign ambassadors and nationals to return to West Beirut and said that their safety is guaranteed. He noted that the special force for protection of ambassadors has established its headquarters in the Soviet Embassy, adding that it is ready to ensure the security and safety of all other embassies.

Brig Gen Kan'an said the security of Beirut International Airport and the road leading to it is now guaranteed, but the decision to reopen the airport is up to the Lebanese authorities.

He pointed out that the era of the militias, which destroyed Beirut and did not abide by the instructions of their commands, has ended. Political activity by the various parties, however, will remain free.

Denies Recovering 6 Western Hostages

NC251744 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, chief of Syrian intelligence in Lebanon, told AFP today that the Syrian forces will not enter Beirut's southern suburb. He justified this by saying that the objective of Syria's deployment in Beirut is to put an end to the militia's violations and to the street battles of the past 2 weeks. He said: This does not apply to the southern suburb, where no battles have taken place.

It is worth noting that Kan'an stressed last Sunday that the West Beirut security plan includes the southern suburb.

Kan'an has also denied that his people have recovered six Western hostages. He declined to make any further comment on this issue, saying: I have no information about the hostages.

Lebanese Army Units Deploy

NC251426 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] Lebanese Army troops have deployed along the contact lines between Ra's al-Nab' to the Al-Hajj Dawud cafe. According to 6th Brigade sources, the 62d Battalion, a company of the 6th Brigade, and two companies of the 12th Brigade took over positions previously under party control along the contact lines.

This was preceded by the withdrawal of gunmen at dawn today and inspection tours by 6th Brigade officers of the posts where the deployment was due to took place.

Booby-Trapped Car Explodes

NC251656 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1648 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] A booby-trapped car exploded in the Al-Raml al'Ali area near the Al-Rasul Mosque in the southern suburb [of Beirut] at 1815 today. Ambulances and fire engines raced to the scene of the incident. The booby-trapped car was a Peugeot 504.

Organization Claims Explosion

NC252045 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] According to certain information, a Syrian captain and a number of Syrian occupation army soldiers were killed in the explosion this evening near the Al-Rasul Mosque, near Burj al-Barajinah. The explosion was targeted against a building that now houses a detachment of Syrian intelligence personnel, but was occupied by the Amal Movement and just turned over to the Syrians a few days ago. Seventeen civilians were also wounded in the explosion and taken to the Al-Sahil and Al-Zahra' Hospitals. The Syrian occupation forces and intelligence personnel have been carrying out raids and mass arrests since this evening, particularly in the area around the explosion site and in the Al-Awza'i area where bursts of gunfire have been heard.

Units of the Syrian occupation army surrounded the area following the explosion and prevented journalists and photographers from approaching it.

According to preliminary reports, the explosion was caused by a blue Fiat 132 rigged with around 50 kg of TNT. The explosion destroyed three floors of the targeted building and damaged a number of surrounding shops and vehicles. Syrian officer Amir Tallah went to the explosion site, while Syrian medical evacuation vehicles removed the victims.

In a telephone call to a foreign news agency, the Lebanese Liberation Organization has announced that a commando unit blew up the headquarters of the Syrian occupation army command in the Al-Rasul Mosque area at 1815 today. The organization announced that it will continue resistance operations against the Syrian occupation army and its agents until the full liberation of all Lebanese territories.

Damascus Reports on Situation

JN252207 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] The Lebanese nationalist and progressive parties and the Palestinian National Salvation Front [PNSF] in northern Lebanon held a meeting today to discuss the positive development of the situation following the entry of the Syrian Arab Army into West Beirut. The conferees issued a statement at the end of the meeting welcoming the entry of the deterrent Syrian forces into West Beirut as a result of leader struggler Hafiz al-Asad's courageous decision that lifted the siege on West Beirut despite the state of isolation imposed on nationalist Beirut by U.S. imperialism.

They also affirmed this historic decision has allowed the return to normal life so Beirut may regain its role as the capital of nationalsit decisionmaking. These parties also believe the new security plan will save the Beirut camps from the tampering of 'Arafat's deviationsit clique to allow these camps under the PNSF to continue their alliance with Lebanese nationalist forces with the support of the Arab fortress of steadfastness, Damascus.

The Syrian Arab forces today continued to deploy in West Beirut in coordination with the Lebanese Army and internal security forces after taking up positions, closing offices, and carrying out their search campaigns for weapons depots. Elements of the 6th and 12th Brigades deployed on the contact lines as of 1600 today after completing preparations for deployment. Armed groups were also withdrawn from the area. Government schools in West Beirut will also open on Thursday after the Syrian forces restored security and stability in that part of the capital. The General Directorate of the Lebanese Ministry of Education today issued a memorandum calling on all government schools, that have closed as a result of the events, to resume their normal work as of tomorrow, Thursday, so as to return to normal life.

The dollar also has suffered a record drop in Lebanese financial markets as a result of security and stability and the return to normal life after the entry of the Syrian Arab forces into West Beirut. In accordance with Lebanon's Central Bank, the dollar sold at 97 Lebanese pounds. At the beginning of the fighting it sold at 141 Lebanese pounds in West Beirut after the close of the stock market. 'Ali al-Jammal, a Lebanese banker, believes the entry of the Syrian Arab forces had positive economic results. He said: The fall of the price of the U.S. dollar is the best sign of that.

Syrians Conduct 'Storming Operations'

NC261002 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] The Syrian occupation forces have been conducting storming operations in the Al-Tariq al-Jadidah area [of West Beirut] since 1100.

In another development, fighting involving the use of machine guns and rockets has been raging along the Burj al-Barajinah combat lines since 1000.

Communist Official Assassinated

NC251146 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] Gunmen using silencers shot Nur Tuqan, an official of the Lebanese Communist Party, in his home in Al-Shiyah [in West Beirut] shortly after midnight last night. Tuqan died from the three bullet wounds.

Sham'un Supports Government Resignation

NC201119 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 20 Feb 87

[Text] Former President Camille Sham'un has asserted that no one accepts the war, battles, catastrophes, and destruction that are taking place in a part of Beirut. Sham'un referred to an extremely urgent issue; namely, a change of government and its replacement with a new one as soon as possible that is able to deal with the current political, security, and economic issues. He said: I am personally in favor of the government's resignation.

Sham'un welcomed Syria's role if it is friendly. However, he noted that there are certain things which the Lebanese Army must handle and not the Syrian forces. These are security matters which must be assigned to the legitimate Lebanese forces.

Commentary Views Efforts To Restore Beirut Order

JN251532 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] The Syrian Arab forces, which responded to Lebanon's appeal, have continued their work in West Beirut to restore security, calm, and peace there in cooperation with the regular, legitimate Lebanese forces. Judging by the opinions of all the Lebanese, Arab, and international media, the Syrian forces, which arrived to extend assistance, carried out their duties in the best possible manner. Thus, calm was restored and peace prevailed wherever they were deployed. Terrorism retreated before them. These forces will continue to carry out their duties efficiently and sincerely and will not be deterred from carrying out this task by anything or any party. To serve the interests and peace of the Lebanese brothers, nothing will remain formidable, no party will appear powerful, and sacrifices will not be very dear. Those who might imagine for one moment they can play games with the Syrian Arab forces, which have been given a mandate to carry out a humanitarian, national, and pan-Arab task of responding to the request of the Lebanese brothers to help them affirm security, spread calm, remove the odd manifestations of weaponry, and prevent lawless activities and anarchy, which serve the interests of Israel, U.S. imperialism, and the enemies of the Arabs, are making a big mistake. It will cost them dearly if they act on the basis of their wrong conceptions or their previous experiences in battles in lanes, alleys, offices, and illegal barracks established in residential areas transformed into jails, detention rooms, and bases for attacking people and violating their property, dignity, security, and peace.

The presence of the Syrian Arab forces in West Beirut contradicts the possibility of maintaining the anomalous, illegitimate conditions that dragged that courageous, partiotic city to the brink of collapse and suicide and created wars and divisions among those who are supposed to be in one line and trench against Israel, imperialism, and the enemies of Lebanon and its Arabsim. This must be perfectly understood everywhere. It is time to close the offices that trade in small wars, end the emirates of lanes and alleys and the control of hoodlums and gangs over public life, cancel the hegemony of illegitimacy over legitimacy, and once and for all end the conditions used to help the Israeli fifth column and those who run after capitulationist solutions with Israel to turn people against each other and invent causes to drive a wedge among allies and create conditions that paralyze the national role and divert attention from the tasks of liberating the land from the Israeli occupation and restoring Lebanon's health on the basis of the unity of the Lebanese people and land, Arab affiliation, and liberation from the Israeli occupation.

Those who agree today on the need to resist Syria's efforts to restore security to West Beirut, be they in East Beirut, West Beirut, or beyond the borders, do not agree on the interest of Lebanon and its people but on those diametrically opposed: the interest of Israel. Israel wants destruction for Lebanon. It wants Lebanon to commit suicide and the Lebanese people to kill one another. It wants the Lebanese guns to face each other instead of facing Israeli occupiers. Those in East Beirut welcome all those who want to resist the peaceful, legitimate Syrian-Lebanese action. Why did they not welcome the peaceful Lebanese efforts, the attempts at Lebanese reconciliation, and the Lebanese in general, regardless of Lebanese identities, religions, sects, or groups?

Anyone who cares at all about Lebanon's national interests and the future and continuity of Lebanon's unity must, by necessity, welcome the great peaceful action by the Syrian forces in West Beirut. This is because Syria cares about Lebanon's national interest, which is the security and peace of the Lebanese people. Syria does not support one group against another or one party against another. It does not side with one area against another, but deals with everybody on the basis of their stands on the Lebanese national interests.

Kuwait Envoy Praises President, Joint Ties

LD241727 Kuwait KUNA in English 1555 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] Damascus, Feb 24 (KUNA) — Kuwait's Ambassador to Damascus Ahmad 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Jasim Tuesday praised Syrian-Kuwaiti ties describing them as an example for other Arab countries to follow.

Al-Jasim in a speech marking the 26th national day of Kuwait, urged all Arab states to close ranks and deplored that the Arab world continues to be infested with rifts.

Kuwait and Syria, he said, have courageously confronted enemy attempts to make the Arab world succumb to hostile designs.

He heaped praise on Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad for Syria's position on key issues raised during the fifth Islamic summit conference held in Kuwait last month. He said Al-Asad's stances led the summit to come up with resolutions that serve the interests of the Arab nations.

The ambassador emphasized that Kuwait has always been keen on cementing ties with sisterly Arab countries and has sought international cooperation for fair world peace.

He cited Kuwait's unwavering support for the Palestinian question stressing that Kuwait has always been dedicated to its Arab belonging.

Meanwhile, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad sent his highness the amir of Kuwait a congratulatory cable on Kuwait's national day.

The Syrian president, according to an official source, said he was confident that Kuwait-Syrian links would continue to flourish.

Results of Local Council Elections Announced

JN251848 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Excerpts] Local Administration Minister Muhammad Harba held a news conference today in which he announced the final and complete results of the local administration council elections as well as the names of those who won the people's confidence allowing them to be elected as members of the councils of governorates, cities, and villages.

The minister began the news conference with a speech in which he said: After our people's masses exercised their constitutional rights allowing them to elect representatives to the local administration councils in 14 governorates, 68 cities, and 200 villages, and after the candidates elected by the citizens won these elections, a new term in the march of the local administration system began in the Syrian Arab Republic. This term can benefit from the positive aspects of previous terms. These positive aspects, the minister added, will serve as a depository of experience and practice enriching this system and bolstering its role in the democratic and popular construction in Syria.

The minister said: This term also must deal with aspirations and unresolved problems. He added the new elected councils must deal with these problems and seek solutions for them to make the local administration system an effective instrument and to enable it to bring about citizen participation on all levels. [Passage omitted]

The minister then answered questions raised by journalists and news agency correspondents on his evaluation of the results of the elections and on the powers invested in the new councils. The minister said these elections were held in a democratic atmosphere. He said: The success achieved by the candidates of the Progressive National Front was something expected because this front represents the popular masses in Syria and also because the candidates of this front included a number of highly qualified academicians and professional men in all constituencies. [Passage omitted]

Shamir Returns from U.S. Visit, Makes Statement

TA251929 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1759 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Statement by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir at Ben-Gurion Airport upon his return from a visit to the United States — live]

[Text] Good evening. I returned from a 9-day visit to the United States this evening. This visit was made up of several parts, beginning first with the official part in Washington, followed by activity among the Jewish community, and then economic activity with top U.S. economists, and, of course, interspersed with all this, many appearances before the media.

As for the official part in Washington, I met with Administration leaders, with U.S. President Mr Reagan, with Vice President Mr Bush, with Secretary of State Mr Shultz, with Secretary of Defense Mr Weinberger, and with congressional leaders and many members of Senate and House committees. In all these meetings, nearly all of the most important issues pertaining to bilateral relations were raised. The atmosphere was most friendly; one could not imagine a better one. There was unanimity on all the topics that we raised. We reached agreements on certain matters that serve to further improve our relations, the friendship involved in them, and which are aimed at making them closer still.

Before my trip, the U.S. Government announced that Israel's status has been defined as a senior non-NATO ally. We discussed this with the President, with the secretary of state, and with the secretary of defense, and tried to find ways to grant greater import and substance to this higher status which we were accorded, as an ally of the United States.

Among the other issues discussed were, naturally, security matters and the situation in the Middle East, as were efforts to promote and achieve peace, economic relations, and economic cooperation; and not only with respect to the economic assistance per se. The strategic cooperation, which has progressed in a most satisfactory manner, was also discussed, but we addressed additional areas that should be included within the successful framework of the strategic cooperation.

All the problems on which we had been forewarned, and which according to every prediction were to have disrupted the course of the visit, such as the problem of the sales of weapons to Iran or the Pollard or South African problems and the like, were pushed completely to the sidelines; they were hardly raised at all in deliberations between ourselves, the Administration, and members of Congress, so we discussed or concentrated on strengthening the Israeli-U.S. friendship and cooperation.

After that, I devoted several days to very concerted activity among the Jewish public, U.S. Jewry. Several issues regarding that sector were urgent and of prime importance. I met with a respectable group of leaders of the various religious movements in the United States to jointly find a solution to that controversial problem of the Law of Return. This meeting, which was the first of its kind, was conducted in an excellent atmosphere, and all the participants in it made efforts to find solutions. It was agreed that the contacts would continue after all the parties take time to think matters out, consult with their congregations, and bring forth suggestions for solving this problem to attain greater peace and unity. I met with the foremost activists for the Soviet Jewish cause, and I took those opportunities as well as others to raise the seriousness and problematic nature of the question of the drop-outs who flock to the United States instead of Israel. Although there were disagreements on this subject here and there, and some people did not agree with me, these differences of opinion struck only a minor chord, and I realized there was great sympathy toward, and understanding for, our position, that of the Israeli Government.

Acknowledging the great importance of Jewish education, I met with educators, with the leaders of the Jewish educational system in the United States, teachers and principals alike, with whom I discussed the need, nay the necessity, to step up and greatly expand Jewish-Hebrew-Israeli education in the United States.

As part of the appeal to Israelis who have been in the United States for extended periods, whose return to Israel we regard as a mission we must accomplish, I held a meeting with many former Israelis — I hope they will be future Israelis, too — more than 1,000 people, with whom we held an exchange. I answered questions and had the feeling that they accepted me with great understanding, excitedly, and that many of them are seeking a way to return home. The efforts in this direction will undoubtedly continue, and the possibility exists that if we deal with this matter systematically and methodically we will enjoy welcoming many of them home, out of friendship; will extend our help to them; and will acknowledge their desire to return home and to be happy there — they themselves, but more importantly their children, many of whom attended that meeting and whose eyes, I noticed, evinced longing for the moment when they could travel back home with me.

Additionally, in the Jewish sphere there were many meetings, as usual, within the framework of the Jewish National Fund and the Israel Bonds campaign, as well as large rallies attended by thousands of Jews in Los Angeles and New York.

Apart from that, I paid special attention to economic activity, and met with members of the task force [last two words in English] on the first day of my visit, and heard encouraging reports on their activity in the direction of expanding Israeli exports and finding sources of additional investment in Israel.

I also met with a number of groups of leading U.S. economists, Jewish and non-Jewish, to whom I explained the changes we are about to introduce in Israel to attract investments and to give private enterprise the opportunity to increase its scope — to do more and achieve more in Israel. Of course, I was asked many questions, and there was great interest in this. I already have heard that practical consultations have resulted from these meetings and that they are taking the desirable directions.

In summing up, I can say this was a visit rife with problems but that generated much interest. It was marked, in its entirety, by an incredibly friendly atmosphere. Not only friendship was involved, but I would even say appreciation for, and admiration of, Israel. This truth and reality, namely, that Israel is the most faithful ally of the United States in the whole world, is currently recognized by all. Israel is loved, and people enjoy seeing it succeed and would like to see it make even greater successes. Of course, I noticed this throughout the visit. Thank you very much.

Holds News Conference on Visit

TA252025 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1808 GMT 25 Feb 87

[News conference given by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir at Ben-Gurion Airport on 25 February upon his return from the United States — live]

[Text][Television correspondent Dan Scemama] Mr Prime Minister, you expressed opposition to an international conference when you were in the United States; while in Egypt, the vice prime minister is actively trying to bring one about. Can a cabinet continue to function under such circumstances? Is there a crisis?

[Shamir] The differences of opinion in the cabinet on this topic are well known; they are nothing new. I expressed my position both to the U.S. Administration and to the media, in fact wherever I was asked about it. The foreign minister is currently in Egypt for a planned visit; his working visit to Egypt was a scheduled event. He may go there, and he may speak there, but I believe Peres does not have the power to conclude anything that would commit the State of Israel on the issue of the international conference.

[Scemama] Are we on the verge of a crisis?

[Shamir] We will see this tomorrow. I hope we will overcome.

[Radio reporter Razi Barqay] Mr Shamir, you mentioned the vice prime minister's visit to Egypt. I have two questions on this subject: First, have you held any telephone conversation in the past 24 hours? Second, do you regard Peres' departure to Egypt before your return to Israel a blow to your status as prime minister?

[Shamir] My response to your first question is negative; and to your second one, this depends on the content of the talks to be conducted in Egypt.

[Barqay] In other words, you see nothing wrong and take no offense at his leaving early?

[Shamir] That is a question of good taste, but I do not regard it as anything grossly out of the ordinary or a diversion from common practice.

[Television correspondent Elimelekh Ram] Mr Prime Minister, one cannot help but feel that while you are talking about the international conference, you are taking a sidelong glance at the Herut convention. What is your reaction to this?

[Shamir] There is no greater lie than this. This is a cynical approach by people who, by casting doubts on others, are discrediting themselves. It is inconceivable that my stand on foremost national issues would be made by taking into consideration domestic political problems, all the more so if these are intrapartisan problems. This is a gross lie, and I would advise all those who believe it to strike it off the agenda. This is an insult to anyone's intelligence.

[IDF Radio political correspondent Gay Zohar] Mr Prime Minister, are you considering approaching the attorney general with a request for a final ruling on whether the Knesset's resolution of 1985 regarding the international conference is truly binding?

[Shamir] I do not need the attorney general's advice. The Supreme Court has already ruled on this, and decisions to implement policy are made by the cabinet; if the Knesset is displeased with the cabinet's policy, it can express no-confidence in it.

[Gay Zohar] During your absence, more people began to believe that the end of the national unity government was drawing nearer. Do you share this assessment?

[Shamir] I became familiar with such tunes long ago. Such remarks were made on many past occasions and on less important issues. I hope we will overcome this and the government will continue to exist, because I believe this is demanded by national interests.

[Razy Barqay] Mr Shamir, according to reports from the United States, it seems that not only here, but also there, there are differences of opinion among the Administration members on the need, efficacy, or wisdom of holding an international peace conference...

[Shamir, interrupting] There are no differences of opinion there; there, there are people whose opinion counts. And both the President and the secretary of state agree that they have many reservations over this entire issue of the international conference and they are skeptical about it, although due to pressure by all sorts of elements, they are prepared to check to what extent this among other suggestions can lead to direct talks immediately.

[Razi Barqay] Would you, Sir, also be prepared to examine such a possibility?

[Shamir] I do not believe in this possibility and have expressed my views accordingly.

[Elimelekh Ram] During your visit to the United States, did you discuss the Lavi?

[Shamir] I did hold talks on it but did not devote special time to the subject because a cabinet decision has not yet been reached on it.

[Barqay] Mr Shamir, one last question, if you please: Judging by what you have just told us, the impression is that you are trying to, how shall I put it, tone down or present a low profile in connection with the crisis that surfaced here in your absence. The question we would like to ask is whether you truly believe that this is a minicrisis, like previous crises suffered by the national unity government, or is there a real threat to the continued existence of this government?

[Shamir] Look, I do not deal with assessments or draw profiles. I address facts and we will see how things develop in the next few days.

Further Reportage on Peres Visit to Egypt

Egypt To Consider No PLO Role

TA260530 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres will confer with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak at noon and will discuss the issue of Palestinian representation in the international conference.

Mr Peres told journalists last night that Egypt is prepared to contemplate holding a conference without the participation of the PLO. The Egyptians feel the PLO has hit rock bottom, Mr Peres said, and Jordan also objects to that organization's current leadership. Mr Peres said he made his full commitment to holding an international conference clear to the Egyptian foreign minister. Israel and Egypt already have peace and do not need such a conference, the vice prime minister said, but Jordan needs it and that is why we will do everything possible to convoke it.

Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports the Egyptian foreign minister promised to speed up the payment of damages to the families of the victims of the Ra's al-Burqa' incident. The Egyptians also promised to resume searches for Israeli soldiers missing in the Sinai. Egypt is also prepared to consider a proposed agreement on Tabah without resorting to arbitration. A new flight route will open between Elat and Luxor. Egypt, on Israel's behalf, will also look into the possibility of establishing diplomatic relations between Jerusalem and Beijing.

Peres Interviewed on Talks

TA260603 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Interview with Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister by political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami "last night, at the end of Mr Peres' first day of talks in Cairo" — recorded]

[Text] [Ben-'Ami] Mr Peres, in your first day of talks here did you discern a change in the Egyptian position or a new Egyptian stance regarding Palestinian representation in a Jordanian delegation to negotiations, if and when they begin?

[Peres] I would say the Egyptians are now more aware than before of the contradiction that exists not only between the Israeli position and that of the PLO, but also between the Jordanian position and that of the PLO.

[Ben-'Ami] In any event, no mention has yet been made of specific people, of a definite list of Palestinian figures.

[Peres] No, there was no mention of that. What was discussed in general terms was whether a Palestinian representation acceptable both to Jordan and Israel could be agreed upon. In other words, a Palestinian representation that would, perhaps, authentically reflect the wishes of the Palestinians, but would not include members of terrorist organizations.

[Ben-'Ami] Mr Peres, I understand this reference is to attempts to find certain techniques or mechanisms to promote the process. Could you elaborate on these possible mechanisms?

[Peres] These mechanisms refer both to procedural questions and to the participants. One issue [words indistinct] and that is the question of Palestinian representation. The second issue, which concerns participation in an international forum, is whether there is a way to settle the contradiction between the Israeli and Soviet positions in view of the conditions posed by Israel for the Soviet Union's participation, and whether another contradiction — that pertaining to the PRC — could be settled; that is, to check whether the PRC would be prepared to establish diplomatic relations with us.

[Ben-'Ami] Did you hear or learn anything about the Egyptian position regarding Israel's conditions for Soviet participation?

[Peres] The most accurate description I can give you of the Egyptian position is the following: The Egyptians justify our demands but would not join us in making them conditions. In other words, they think we are right in our demand but they do not identify with us in posing this demand as a condition.

[Ben-'Ami] Thank you, sir.

PLO Changes Stance on Palestinian Representation

TA260826 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 26 Feb 87 pp 1, 4

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] On his last visit to Cairo last week, 'Arafat's deputy Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], submitted a list of Palestinian personalities living in the territories whom the PLO has empowered to take part in the deliberations of the preparatory committee of the international conference. The identities of those included on the list are not yet known, but reference is to five to eight PLO supporters in the territories who are also acceptable to Israel and probably also to prominent Palestinians in exile.

This development represents a change in the PLO's position in view of the fact that to date its main bone of contention with Egypt revolved around the PLO's demand to be the sole representative of the Palestinian cause. In recent contacts Egypt explained to the PLO that the preparatory committee will convene on a low level and that consequently there will be no need for the PLO leadership to attend its deliberations.

As may be recalled, in the Husayn-'Arafat agreement, the PLO acceded to empower Palestinians who are not PLO members to take part in a Palestinian delegation. However, following the rift with Husayn the PLO reneged on this agreement and dismissed Hanna Sinyurah and Fayiz Abu Rahmah. Now it seems that both these men will once again be assigned as delegates, and will be joined by others. Although the list is not known, it is believed based on previous contacts that reference is to professors teaching at universites in the territories, such as Dr Muhammad (Shadid); mayors who were not appointed by Jordan, such as Hafiz Tuqan of Nabulus; or dismissed mayors, such as Mustafa 'Abd al-Nabi al-Natshah of Hebron. Our correspondent has learned the names of some of the figures included on the list.

A Palestinian personality who was recently in Cairo told our correspondent that reports of a final agreement on the question of Palestinian representation were premature. In his opinion, it will take a long time before such an agreement is reached. He noted that Abu Jihad's stay in Cairo had been very brief and that apparently he had not finalized the issue.

Knesset Member Yosi Sarid yesterday predicted that Peres would return from Egypt with a list of Palestinian representatives to negotiations with Israel recently approved by Egypt, Jordan, and the PLO.

MK Says List of Palestinians for Talks Drawn Up

TA251356 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1300 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] Foreign Ministry sources believe that Egypt, Jordan, and the PLO have drawn up a list of Palestinian representatives for a peace conference with Israel. This has been stated by Knesset Member [MK] Yosi Sarid of the Citizens Right Movement.

In a debate on the territories in the Knesset plenum, Mr Sarid said authorized representatives of the Palestinians who are acceptable to Egypt, Jordan, and the PLO are supposed to participate in the international conference. He added that if Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres returns from Cairo with the list and if Israel goes to elections as a result, then his trip will have borne fruit. This is reported by our correspondent Amnon Nadav.

Lebanese Hostages Said Moved to Iranian Embassy

TA251819 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] A Kuwaiti newspaper reports today that Shi'ite Muslim extremists holding foreign hostages in Lebanon have moved some captives to the Iranian Embassy in Beirut and to south Lebanon in order to evade Syrian efforts to free them. The Iranian Embassy is located in one of the only districts where Syrian troops have not yet deployed. The newspaper did not say which hostages have been moved and attributed its report to Syrian and Western sources. *Al-Qabas* also says Tehran and Damascus have launched urgent consultations on the hostage issue.

Rabin Confident Despite Syrian Presence in Beirut

TA260621 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] Speaking in Jerusalem last night Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin indicated that Israel was not overly concerned about the increased Syrian military presence in Beirut. He was speaking at the Conference of the Federation of Women Zionists of Great Britain.

[Begin Rabin recording] Regardless, the Syrian reduced division entered Beirut. It doesn't scare us whatsoever. We are strong, confident of ourselves. And it looks to me that lately the burden, the heavy burden, of their defense budget that has caused tremendous problems — economically and socially, even in the kind of brutal dictatorship that exists in Syria — is intolerable anymore [as heard], and we see signs of cracking even in their philosophy, in their aspirations for strategic parity. They realize that Syria alone will never be a military match to Israel. It doesn't mean that they cannot make a mistake, but they know, or they should know, and they should have no miscalculation what will be the outcome of such tragic miscalculation to them. [end recording]

Soviet State Gypsy Theater To Tour 'Mid-March'

TA251223 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1200 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] The first visit of a Soviet troupe in Israel in dozens of years: The State Gypsy Theater of Moscow will arrive in Israel in mid-March for an extended tour, with the approval of the Soviet Ministry of Culture. Our correspondent Arye Shor reports that the troupe is being brought to Israel by film distributor Victor Freilich, who is in contact with the Soviet state film company. Freilich said the negotiations had been going on for 5 years and that the permission granted to the troupe to perform in Israel is attributed to the policy of openness instituted by Gorbachev. The troupe that will come to Israel includes dozens of dancers, singers, and players headed by singer Nikolay (Flichenko). It has been learned that negotiations are under way for the visit of other Soviet troupes.

Shultz Warns Nisim Against Wages, Consumption

TA251256 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0500 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz warned Israel that it might seriously undermine its economic achievements if it pursues the current trends of raising wages and increasing consumption. In a message to Finance Minister Moshe Nisim, Secretary Shultz recommends several measures to curb these trends. The message was sent on the eve of the prime minister's visit to the United States.

DAVAR: David Levi 'Can Prevent' Government Fall

TA251653 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 25 Feb 87 p 7

[Commentary by Hagay Eshed: "The Key is in David Levi's Hand]

[Text] All roads now lead to Deputy Prime Minister David Levi. He can do something to prevent the disruption of democratic procedures both in the government and in his party, which are interdependent bodies. Whoever causes a government crisis and early elections will bring disaster to the economy and will make Israel responsible for disrupting the peace process. They will also cause additional postponements in the Herut convention.

Early elections — even for artificial reasons and with uncalled-for timing — will force David Levi and the entire Herut Movement to unite and rally around the current leadership as it stands, headed by Yitzhaq Shamir, and to face the party's common rival together. Early elections would even necessitate postponing a discussion of the internal differences, including David Levi's demands and complaints, until after the elections. Early elections to the Knesset will hinder David Levi's democratic right to present himself for the personal, direct, and free election by all convention delegates. He is being deprived of this elementary right by all sorts of procrastination tactics and devices. An artificial government crisis at this time would be the best of all these devices. David Levi can foil this device, or rather "this trap." He can prevent the dissolution of the national unity government and thereby ensure the continuation of the economic recovery policy, which might be halted if an election campaign were launched at this time. David Levi can also prevent an obstruction of the peace process currently in progress.

This process did not begin just now, and it is not about to end just now. Shim'on Peres is constantly continuing his efforts to reach an agreement with Jordan and Egypt on conditions that would ensure direct negotiations without the superpowers dictating the moves. So far a full agreement on all these conditions has not been attained, and therefore an international conference has not yet been convened and is not about to be convened. However, this effort, which has been going on for 2 years, has already borne a not insignificant number of results. Already there is a written and signed agreement between Israel, Jordan, and the United States — with Egypt's knowledge and approval — on 10 of the conditions that would ensure direct negotiations. Agreement has not yet been reached on three important conditions, and much work is still needed to achieve a draft agreement between all the parties concerned. This is what Shim'on Peres will try to attain in his meeting with President Mubarak.

If such an agreement is reached, there will be direct negotiations. If no agreement is reached, there will be no direct negotiations and no international conference. Only if such an agreement is achieved can it be brought to the cabinet for approval; not before, and not after. Only then will the cabinet be able to decide whether to approve the agreement as it stands or to demand that some changes be made before it is finally approved. Only at that time can the Likud propagandists determine whether the international conference will prevent direct negotiations or whether the opposite is true: that it will make direct negotiations possible and even ensure them. This is the diplomatic norm acceptable among all nations and countries, and was also the case concerning the withdrawal of the IDF from Lebanon and the Tabah arbitration. It also applies to domestic economic matters: First negotiations are conducted; once an agreement is ready for approval, it is brought before the cabinet.

Raising the subject now reminds one of the saying: A job that goes only halfway is not worth doing. David Levi can ask himself, and Yitzhaq Shamir, too, what point there is in creating, before the time is ripe, a government crisis that would lead to early elections and a paralysis of the Herut convention.

Yitzhaq Shamir, having said what he has about the international conference to stop all discussion on it, has already failed. The European ministers were not impressed with his recalcitrant statements; neither were the Soviets. The Americans also do not reject the concept in itself. They are skeptical about the conditions, as is Shim'on Peres. In the meantime, this idea is not dead and buried. It continues to be a concept that requires additional efforts to be put to the test — to be approved or rejected.

The government must now continue its work; Shim'on Peres must continue his efforts to promote the peace process, considering his primary function as foreign minister; the Knesset must approve the budget, in accordance with the economic recovery policy; and the second session of the Herut convention must take place without further delay and must elect — in an atmosphere free of pressure and crises — the convention representatives to all the movement's top positions, fulfilling everyone's democratic rights. This depends solely on David Levi. He can and must tell Yitzhaq Shamir that he is not in favor of creating half-baked artificial crises.

Likud, Alignment Meet With Religious Parties

TA251213 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] Over the last few days, the Alignment and the Likud have separately been holding contacts with leaders of the NRP [National Religious Party], SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardis], and Agudat Yisra'el to secure their support in the event the national unity government were to disband. Ministers Nisim and Sharon conducted the negotiations with the religious parties on behalf of the Likud. They emphasized that they did not want to bring down the government but wanted to make sure that the Alignment is not able to set up an alternate government. SHAS officials said they were not categorically against dissolving the unity government, but said they would await the prime minister's return from the United States and talk to him. Agudat Yisra'el tends not to go along with the Alignment. The NRP leaders reiterated they would not help disband the government.

Poll: Peres 'More Popular Leader' Than Shamir

TA251241 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 25 Feb 87 p 3

[Report by Ilan Kfir]

[Text] Who is more of a leader in your eyes? This question was posed last weekend to 507 interviewees in a telephone poll conducted by Teleseker, a firm run by Dori Shadmon. The poll was held during Prime Minister Shamir's stay in Washington and at the time that the confrontation between him and Peres and the Likud and the Alignment began. Some 55.4 percent replied that they consider Peres a more popular leader, while 17.3 percent opted for Shamir. Another question polled: Who is better at running the government and directing the ministers? The answers: Shim'on Peres — 52.6 percent; Yitzhaq Shamir — 15 percent.

These were the results of a similar poll held before the rotation of the premiership between Peres and Shamir: Leadership: Peres — 55 percent; Shamir — 18 percent; who is running the government better? Peres — 55 percent; Shamir — 17 percent.

More on 45th OAU Foreign Ministers Session

Oumarou on 'Poor Economic Outlook'

EA252323 Dakar PANA in English 1748 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] Addis Ababa, 24 Feb (PANA) — The OAU is searching for the ways and means of solving the serious problem of debt pending [words indistinct] (?said) OAU secretary general, Ide Oumarou, who was presenting his progress report to the 45th ministerial session of the continental body.

The OAU will collaborate with the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the African Development Bank (ADB) and the Centre for African Monetary Studies (CAMS) in this respect, said Ide Oumarou who pointed to the poor economic outlook of the continent. The enthusiasm which heralded the preparation of the UN special session on the economic situation of Africa has given way to disillusion, he said.

Africa should accelerate itself the pace of setting its house in order, the OAU secretary general pointed out, adding the international community can only come to the assistance of African countries if they prove the changes proposed in various resolutions are not merely words but part and parcel of national plans. Ide Oumarou recalled the recommendations of the OAU Permanent Steering Committee to enable Africa to implement the UN programme of action for its economic recovery as well as its priority economic recovery programme.

These recommendations concern, among other things, the harmonization of Africa's position during international negotiations like those of UNCTAD, GATT and UNIDO [United Nations Industrial Development Organization].

Cited on OAU Financial Problems

EA252312 Dakar PANA in English 1835 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] Addis Ababa, 24 Feb — On 19th February 1987 only two countries paid their contributions to the budget of the Organization of African Unity, Mr Ide Oumarou, OAU secretary general, said. Mr Oumarou, who submitted his report to the 45th regular session of African foreign ministers today in Addis Ababa, said that eight other countries paid part of their assessments while the other 40 did not contribute at all. There is still 22 million dollars to collect while "the financial year started nine months ago".

Arrears are estimated at 47 million dollars and certain countries have not paid since 1971. As for budget estimates for the next financial year, they were based on a zero growth. Despite this situation, the Consultative Committee ordered a two million dollar abatement. This led Mr Oumarou to wonder what 25 million dollars represent for an organization with the ambitions of the OAU.

To justify its decision to cut the budget, the Consultative Committee, according to Mr Oumarou, referred to the financial problems facing OAU member-states. These problems should encourage us to better "organise our solidarity". It is for the Council of Ministers to decide on the matter. Meanwhile, the secretary general told them that he wished to see the OAU set up its development programme, as the United Nations has done with UNDP, FAO or IFAD [International Fund for Agricultural Development], for example.

Further on Oumarou Address

EA252341 Addis Ababa in English to Neighboring Countries 1530 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] The 45th ordinary session of the Council of Ministers of the OAU has heard a progressive report on the activities of the General Secretariat from Mr Ide Oumarou, secretary-general of the OAU.

The report, covering the period July 1986 to February 1987, presented on the second day of the Ministerial Council meeting yesterday, revealed that it was a hectic year for the OAU Secretariat, which was confronted with administrative, political, as well as economic problems. The OAU secretary general said that the Secretariat [word indistinct] 1986 concentrating its attention on two situations; namely, the liberation struggle in southern Africa and the implementation of the priority program for economic recovery and development. Of major concern to the Secretariat [word indistinct] political situation in Chad, Western Sahara, and the Horn of Africa.

According to Mr Ide Oumarou, nothing has changed in South Africa since the Council's last session in July 1986. Mr Oumarou expressed deep concern over the current acts of (?aggression) of South Africa's racist regime to suppress and quell the freedom struggle of the indigenous people of South Africa. He said the Pretoria regime has increased its atrocities on South African people by massacring innocent civilians and throwing people, including children, into prison cells.

The OAU, Mr Oumarou declared, has continued lobbying for the imposition of effective and comprehensive sanctions against South Africa with a view to dismantling apartheid. Its recent appeal to the UN Security Council to impose further mandatory sanctions against South Africa was vetoed and frustrated by Britain, the U.S. and FRG.

OAU Adopts Reduced Budget

EA252348 Dakar PANA in English 1740 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] Addis Ababa, 25 Feb — The 45th ministerial session of the OAU, opened since Monday in Addis Ababa, adopted today for the organization a 23.2 million [dollars] budget for the 1987-88 period. OAU assistant secretary general responsible for mission coordination, S. Nsanzimana, told a press conference in the Ethiopian capital that the amount approved represents a four per cent reduction compared to the previous budget of 25 million dollars.

In adopting the budget, the Council instructed OAU Secretary General Ide Oumarou to implement all the adjustments it recommended during the present session, according to Nsanzimana. The secretary general and the Consultative Committee (Budget) were also urged to meet as often as possible, the assistant secretary general added. Presenting his progress report yesterday, Ide Oumarou pointed to the many cases of disagreement between the General Secretariat and the Consultative Budgetary Committee regarding the amount projected in the budget for the period.

PAC Official Pleads for Aid

EA252332 Dakar PANA in English 1805 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] Addis Ababa, 24 Feb (PANA) — The delegate of the Pan-African Congress, PAC, of Azania, South Africa, to the 45th ministerial session which began Monday in Addis Ababa, R. Ebrahim, pleaded for increased financial assistance to national liberation movements.

Speaking on behalf of liberation movements, he said apartheid could "neither be reformed nor changed" but should "be destroyed". He stressed the popular resistance despite the murder of more than [word indistinct] people including [word indistinct] children.

Referring to Namibia, R. Ebrahim noted that the racist regime prevented the implementation of UN Resolution 435 adopted in 1978. The PAC delegate highlighted the mobilization of the Namibian people by SWAPO to obtain the independence of the territory which is "illegally occupied by South Africa". Like the peoples of South Africa and Namibia, Mr Ebrahim said, the Palestinian people are also victims of racism. "The motherland of Palestine", he added, "was taken by Zionism".

He concluded bu urging the ministers who attended the 45th session to seize the opportunity of the meeting to make a "collective commitment" not to build "a wall around the monster (apartheid) but to attack and destroy it".

Before the closing of the first session, a new bureau was elected. It is composed of Botswana (chairman), Sao Tome and Principle, Kenya and the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic (vice chairmen). The rapporteur will be appointed from among West African countries.

Angolan Minister Holds Meetings

MB252024 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese
1900 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] A message from Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos to Adebayo Adedeji, secretary general of the OAU Economic Commission for Africa, was delivered by Minister of External Relations Afonso van Dunem Mbinda in Addis Ababa yesterday. The Angolan minister has been in the Ethiopian capital since the day before yesterday, representing our country at the proceedings of the 45th OAU Council of Ministers session. ANGOP's envoy to Addis Ababa reports that the contents of the message were not disclosed but that they most likely deal with economic issues of common interest.

Meanwhile, the Angolan foreign minister has embarked on a diplomatic campaign in the Ethiopian capital. Following a meeting with the foreign ministers of the Portuguese-speaking African countries, Afonso van Dunem Mbinda met with his Senegalese, Ivorian, and Cameroonian counterparts, with whom he discussed issues related to the prevailing political and social situation in southern Africa. Minister van Dunem briefed his counterparts on the region, which is marked by continued aggressions from the racist South African Army against the Frontline States. During the meeting the ministers assessed bilateral relations between Angola and Senegal, Ivory Coast, and Cameroon, particularly in the field of interstate cooperation.

ANGOP reports that the meeting with the Frontline States envoys also dealt with a common stand during the debates on southern Africa's social and political situation. ANGOP cites Minister Afonso van Dunem Mbinda as having stated that the ministers reviewed the prevailing situation in the region in light of the recent threats and aggression perpetrated by South Africa against the People's Republic of Angola. Minister van Dunem added that the meeting permitted discussions on the adoption of common measures and the assessment of a stand to be adopted at the next meeting of the Nonaligned Movement's Coordination Bureau scheduled to be held in Guyana in March.

OAU's Sassou Nguesso Cited on Regional Topics

PM251714 Madrid EL PAIS in Spanish 21 Feb 87 p 6

[Interview with OAU Chairman Denis Sassou Nguesso by Ana Camacho in Madrid on 19 February]

[Excerpt] Madrid — [introductory passage omitted] Question: The conflict in the Western Sahara is at a standstill at present, and following the construction of the latest Moroccan wall many observers consider that territory's annexation by Rabat a fait accompli.

Answer: The definition of the method for holding a referendum on the Sahara's self-determination is still the chief obstacle to the OAU's activities in this connection. Morocco has constructed another wall — the sixth — but we are concerned not with the military and defense aspects of the issue but with its political solutions. In this respect the issue has not yet been resolved.

Question: Africans generally complain that the United States is much more sensitive to the apartheid problem in South Africa than the European countries, despite their much closer historical and geographical ties with your continent.

Answer: A distinction must be drawn between public opinion and governments. The public in both the United States and in Europe are very sensitive to the tragedy of apartheid. The difference is that the Europeans lack the institutional means that enable the Americans' feelings to be reflected in their government's political decisions.

Question: Have you made any progress in this connection during the Europeran tour that you have just completed?

Answer: Everyone agrees that apartheid in South Africa must end; that material support must be given to the Frontline countries to compensate them for the harm caused to them by the South African boycott; and that the liberation movements of southern Africa must be encouraged. The problem is how to implement these intentions in practice. One of the main successes of my European tour is Margaret Thatcher's proposal to convene a constitutional conference in South Africa. This idea implies a new step because it presupposes a number of preconditions, such as an end to the State of Emergency, the release of all political prisoners, and the recognition of the political organizations currently in hiding.

Question: Do you believe that a peaceful solution to this problem is still possible?

Answer: This is the OAU's aim. But if the Pretoria government insists on maintaining apartheid the situation will lead to a bloodbath: There are 25 million black people in South Africa who, as you can appreciate, will not agree to live like slaves.

Question: What have the African countries achieved with the policy of economic "adjustment" approved at the OAU summit last July?

Answer: Unfortunately, we are deadlocked, which was one of the reasons for my European tour. Africa needs the Western world's technological and financial support to surmount the serious economic crisis affecting it and to reorganize its economic structures. However, not only have the promises to impose sanctions on the racist South African regime not been kept but neither have the promises of economic aid or to renegotiate the foreign debt that burdens the countries of the continent.

Question: You met recently in Algeria with one of the Chadian opposition leaders, Goukouni Oueddei who, according to Ndjamena, is currently a prisoner of his former ally in the fight — Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. Do you believe the conflict among the Chadian factions is still one of the keys to this war?

Answer: I cannot say how far his freedom of movement and expression extend, but it is certainly true that I was able to talk with him personally and without Libyan supervision about the problems affecting his country. Major progress toward peace has been achieved in Chad following the recent return to Ndjamena of the leaders of various factions that were part of the armed opposition until a few months ago. But irrespective of the French and Libyan intervention, the Chadians are still fighting among themselves, which is why I believe Goukouni's appeals for a national reconciliation should be heeded.

Question: Do you believe that the sending of further French troops is a step toward an escalation of the war in Chad?

Answer: Our efforts are designed to avert a confrontation with incalculable consequences. In this respect the concentration of troops near the 16th Parallel is a serious threat to peace.

ALGERIA

Bendjedid Meets Tanzania's Armed Forces Minister
LD252343 Algiers APS in English 1030 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] Algiers, 25/2/87 (APS) — President Chadli Bendjedid audienced Tuesday here the Tanzanian minister of armed forces and national service, Salim Ahmed Salim, who is paying a friendship and working visit to Algeria.

Salim handed to President Chadli Bendjedid greetings of Tanzanian President Ali Hassan Mwinya and the political leadership of the Tanzanian Revolutionary Party.

Moreover, the Tanzanian minister conferred with the executive secretary of the ministry of defence, General Mustapha Chelloufi on topics of common interest.

President Meets Envoy Before Burkina Faso Visit
LD230212 Algiers Domestic Service in French
2200 GMT 22 Feb 87

[Text] The head of state has received Mr Mohamed Ben Ahmed Abdelghani, minister of state for the presidency, on the eve of his departure for Ouagadougou as special envoy. Mr Abdelghani is bearing a message from President Chadli Bendjedid to Captain Sankara, Burkina Faso's president.

As for the Burkina minister of external relations currently visiting Algeria, he has been received by the minister of heavy industry. The two ministers examined prospects for industrial cooperation.

Minister Speaks to Press on Election Preparations
LD260448 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Excerpt] Mohamed Hadj Yala, member of the Political Bureau and minister of the interior and localities, held a meeting before noon today with members of the press at the ministry headquarters.

He reviewed the organizational, human, and material preparations being made so the election can take place under the best conditions.

Hadj Yala noted the atmosphere in which the nomination process took place starting with municipalities, party subdivisions, and finally the national committee. This process was characterized by complete democracy and eventually 885 candidates were chosen. These candidates will be put before the citizens, who will elect 295 members to the new assembly, that is, 13 members more than the previous election term.

The minister of the interior and localities gave other figures relating to the electorate who registered this year and whose number is estimated at 11.7 million. These will perform their electoral duty at 35,605 polling booths. These include 779 mobile booths that have been distributed in 189 electoral districts.

In this connection, he noted that the electoral districts are not administrative districts but are districts in which the population density has been taken into consideration. A single electoral district might consist of a part of a municipality or of one municipality or of several municipalities. In addition to the aforementioned figure on the number of registered voters, one should add about 400,000 of the brothers who are living abroad who will also cast their vote. All measures have been taken to facilitate this task, including enabling them to vote by proxy. [passage omitted]

LIBYA

Delegates to General People's Congress Arrive

Algerian Group Arrives
LD251433 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab
Homeland in Arabic 0015 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Excerpt] Brother Bachir Khaldoun, member of the Algerian National Liberation Front Central Committee in charge of culture, education, and training, arrived in Tripoli last night at the head of a delegation to attend the sessions of the General People's Congress and to participate with the Libyan Arab people in the celebrations of the 10th anniversary of the declaration of the people's authority and the birth of history's first jamahiriyah. [passage omitted]

Malta Delegation Arrives
LD251428 Tripoli JANA in English 0858 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] Tripoli, al-Nawar 25, *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — Yesterday evening, Malta's delegation arrived in Tripoli to attend the sessions of the General People's Congress and to join the Libyan Arab people in its celebrations of the 10th anniversary of the establishment of people's authority and the birth of first jamahiriyah in history.

Mrs. Chitina Darminia the member of the Maltese parliament and the head of the delegation confirmed in a statement to JANA that the delegation's visit to great Jamahiriyah is aimed at strengthening the already outstanding excellent [words indistinct] this visit will contribute in strengthening the bridges of co-operation that exist between both friendly people of great Jamahiriyah and Malta.

Benin, Italy, Ghana Envoys Arrive
LD251407 Tripoli JANA in English 0945 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Nawar 25, *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — Mr. B.A. Valti, Central Committee member of Benin and his accompanying delegation arrived in Tripoli yesterday to attend the sessions of the General People's Congress and join in the celebrations of the Libyan Arab people on the 10th anniversary of the establishment of people's power and the birth of the first jamahiriyah in history.

In his comments to JANA, Mr. Valti has condemned the foreign intervention in Africa.

He has, in the meantime, lauded the existing cooperation relations between great Jamahiriyah and his country.

Additionally, the secretaries of the basic people's congresses coming from Italy from Napoli, Catania and Sicily arrived yesterday in Tripoli.

Also, Mr Ibrahim Amatin, secretary of the Islamic conference, Mr. Yusif Ya'qub, Ghana's Islamic Council member, Mr Dawood Adago, chairman of the Islamic Secretariat in Ghana have arrived in Tripoli to participate in the above activities and celebrations.

YAR Envoy Brings Letter

LD251243 Tripoli JANA in English 1110 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] Tripoli, al-Nawar 25, *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — Mr. A.M. Al-Asbahi, secretary of the permanent committee of North Yemen's General People's Congress and his accompanying delegation arrived in Tripoli yesterday to attend the sessions of the General People's Congress and join in the celebrations of the Libyan Arab people in the birth of the first jamahiriyah in history.

In comments made to JANA, Mr. al-Asbahi has stressed that this visit aims at the strengthening the cordial and brotherly relations existing between his country and great Jamahiriyah, apart from serving our common objectives spearheaded by the Palestinian question.

He adds that his country has achieved positive results as regards unity and joint Arab action, let alone the coordination brought about between the people's congress of his country and that of great Jamahiriyah.

He continues that his visit also aims at following up the points already agreed upon by the two sides in previous visits.

He continues that he is bringing with him a letter from the president of North Yemen, Mr. A.M. Salih to the leader of the revolution.

DFLP Head Arrives

LD252145 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1819 GMT 25 Feb 87

[tExt] Tripoli, 25 Feb (JANA) — Brother Nayif Hawatimah, DFLP secretary general, arrived in Tripoli this afternoon to attend the sessions of the General People's Congress and to participate with the Libyan Arab people in the celebrations of the 10th anniversary of the declaration of people's authority and the birth of the first great Jamahiriyah in history.

JANA Notes Opening of General People's Congress

LD251232 Tripoli JANA in English 1120 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] Sabha, al-Nawar 25, *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — At 11 a.m. today in the city of the first spark in great Jamahiriyah, the General People's Congress has started its regular 12th meeting.

This congress is the get-together of the people's congresses, peoples committees, all the associations, unions and professional congresses.

Present at this congress were the secretary and members of the secretariat of the General People's Congress in addition to delegations from a number of friendly and sisterly countries.

In the opening session of the meeting of the General People's Congress, its secretary has welcomed the guests who with their accompanying delegations have attended. They are Dr. A. al-Asbahi, secretary of the Permanent Committee of the General People's Congress of North Yemen; Mr. Bachir Khaldoun, member of Central Committee and Permanent Committee of Algerian National Liberation Front; Mr Om.S. Badinar, secretary of South Yemen presidium body; Mr. David Kubirnego, Uganda's state minister; Mr. Andrew Minago, vice-chairman of the National Assembly of Madagascar; Mr. B.A. Valti, member of the Central Committee of Benin; and Mrs. Amila Castro.

At the opening of the session, the secretary of the General People's Congress has also welcomed the secretaries of the pan-Arab and international secretaries as well as the Basic Peoples Congresses in Europe, America and Australia in addition to the members of the diplomatic mission accredited to great Jamahiriyah who have attended this session.

After that the resolutions reached by the Basic People's Congresses on the items of their agenda were read. They include first: A notice about Basic People's Congresses discussion of the practical measures to build the new socialist society — the speech of the leader of the revolution during his meeting with the General People's Committee and the secretaries of the Municipalities' People's Committees on 10:12:1986.

Second: Follow-up the implementation of the Basic People's Congresses' Resolutions formulated at the General People's Congress in its previous session.

Third: Budgets. They include the approval of the 1987 administration budget and follow up the execution of the transformation budget of 1986 and the approval of the 1987 transformation budget, the defence budget and support allowances of 1987.

Fourth: Public reports which cover the agriculture, economy, 1987 imports and treasury sectors. The reports of Libya Central Bank, Al-Jihad fund, social security, agricultural bank, development bank, estate saving and investment bank, Libyan Arab Foreign Bank and Libyan Arab Foreign Investment Company. Discussion on the leave for pregnancy of working women. Transport and sea-fairing sector: The report of the public corporation of postal services and cable and wireless communications. Energy and oil sector: Report of the national oil corporation and its company, the report of general electricity company. Industry sector — a report on the strategic industrial projects. The administrative and people's censoring sector: A report of the accountancy office and the issue of the people's committees.

Fifth: General matters — fortification of the coast — implementation of revolutionary administration — drafting of assessment for barter regulation — assessing tourism's organisation — the health file.

Sixth: Laws — law for rebuilding of the people's court — project of a law for aliens entering and residing in Libya.

Seventh: Foreign policy — review of outcome of leader's visits — reports of People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison, Brotherhood, and people's bureaux abroad — follow up of unionist steps with Algeria, Syria, Sudan and Yemen — support for international liberation movements, nationalist and internationalist organisations or basis of active work — the Non-Alignment Movement and revolutionary approaches towards it — U.S. presence in the Mediterranean Sea and its effects on Jamahiriyah's relations with its states especially Italy — confronting Zionist infiltration in the Arab homeland — taking stance towards states based on their attitudes from the U.S.-NATO aggression.

Eighth: Ratification of treaties and agreements signed between great Jamahiriyah and sisterly countries and friendly states.

The secretary of the General People's Congress announced after that the formation of 4 committees to work out the initial formulation of those resolution. Then the session was adjourned.

UN Delegate Condemns U.S. 'Aggression'

LD251421 Tripoli JANA in English 1105 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] New York, Al Nowar 25, *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — The representative of Great Jamahiriyah at the U.N. has stressed that his people is certain that child-killer Reagan has ordered his troops to assassinate the leader of the revolution in person and his family in the U.S.-NATO abortive aggression launched last Al-Tayr (April) month.

In the interview conducted with him by the Canadian paper, *"Toronto Sun"*, he adds that the above aggression represents a valid reflection of terrorism sponsored by a superpower and permanent member of U.N. Security Council.

He continues that the justifications and pretexts put forward by the U.S. Administration for this aggression are totally flimsy and baseless.

He concludes his comments by stressing that the Administration of child-killer Reagan is now most hated by the Arabs and freedom-fighters earth-wide.

Ugandan Chief of Staff Lauds Relations, Departs

LD252356 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic
2018 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] Elie Tumwine, Uganda's chief of staff, praised the development of relations between the Libyan Arab and the Ugandan peoples. In a statement to JANA prior to his departure from Tripoli International Airport at midday today, he also lauded the colossal achievements in civilization of the Libyan Arab people, thanks to the Great al-Fatih Revolution, in all fields.

Correction to JANA Criticizes Ivorian President

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "JANA Criticizes Ivorian President on Chad," published in the 20 February Middle East & Africa *Daily Report* on pages Q 1-2, is supplied by JANA at 1002 GMT on 20 February:

Paragraph four, from line six make read:...agent and that puppets of his ilk are not better than he is in their loyalty to Paris which started to send once more a stinking smell of the colonialist ...(rewording)

Paragraph five, last line make read:...only by misery and bereavement. [new graf]

"What makes the...(rewording)

Paragraph six, line two make read:...the right and correct thing is that...(changing word "confirmed" to "correct")

Same paragraph, from line nine to end of item make read:...them to speak. The struggling African people knows quite well, for it is the best and always know, who are its enemies and who are the ones that are trying desperately to bring back the ugly colonialist to the African Continent. [new graf]

Whether this time it is French or wrapped in the American flag, what remains to Africans is to seize those enemies, expose them and cause their downfall for good together with the dreams cherished by their colonialists....(rewording, repunctuating, and deleting editorial notation)

Radio on Israeli 'Sabotage' in Egyptian Capital

NC260754 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic
0600 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] New information has come to light with regard to acts of sabotage carried out by the Zionist enemy's embassy in the vanquished Egyptian capital. According to reports, this embassy is one of the Zionist establishments to which the Egyptian regime has left the door open for activities within the country. Such establishments have become spy dens designed to corrupt Egyptians.

The Lebanese *Al-Safir* newspaper has reported that three employees at the Zionist enemy's embassy, including the first secretary, were deported from Egypt after it had been established that these Zionists had recruited a number of senior officials in an Egyptian security organization. Over the last 2 weeks, the newspaper added, Egyptian authorities have deported 10 Zionists working at the Zionist academic center in Egypt on charges of carrying out activities harmful to Egyptian national security.

AL-AKHBAR Notes Government 'Liquidation Campaign'

NC232238 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2205 GMT 23 Feb 87

[Text] Cairo, 23 Feb (MENA) — Highly-placed circles in Libya have affirmed that a plan has been drawn up to get rid of a number of officials in the Libyan Government and its departments including some who are close to Libyan Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

Reporting this in tomorrow's issue, *Al-Akhbar* notes that these same circles affirmed that Al-Qadhdhafi is masterminding the campaign because he fears the increasing opposition to his policy, particularly on the issue of Chad. The circles expect that Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud might be one of the candidates to be killed as part of the liquidation campaign of comrades, that was formed following the emergence of disputes with Al-Qadhdhafi over Libyan involvement in Chad.

The paper points out that Al-Qadhdhafi engineered the campaign that started with the assassinations of Col Hasan Ishkal, and then Col Hasan Karbal, deputy commander of the Air Defenses, who was killed in the Kafra area. Meanwhile, there are rumors that the death of Zahiyah Muhammad al-Zurbi, an officer in the special guards, was perpetrated by Al-Qadhdhafi. It has been reported that the officer expressed indignation at the unethical practices of the revolutionary committees toward the revolutionary officers. The killing was carried out so she would not expose such practices.

MAURITANIA

Taya Receives Chadian Foreign State Secretary

LD260053 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic
2030 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] Moaaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation, received Ahmed Karoum, Chadian secretary of state for foreign affairs and cooperation, who was carrying a message from President Hissein Habre, dealing with bilateral relations and the situation in Chad.

Official Says Prisoners in Chad Not Nationals

AB251000 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French
0730 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] The legal advisor to the head of state, (Mohamed Lemine Ould Sid Abdalla) returned to Nouakchott on 22 February from Ndjamena. In the Chadian capital, (Sid Abdalla) delivered a message from Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, CMSN chairman, to President Hissein Habre. The head of state's legal adviser told our reporter upon his arrival that he was bearer of a message from the president to President Hissein Habre. On the occasion, the Chadian authorities were kind to allow me to see and talk to these detainees whom you were referring to. Following this visit, (Mohamed Lemine Ould Sid Abdalla) pointed out, and after these talks which took place in the presence of the Chadian personalities, I can affirm today that these detainees are not Mauritanian nationals. Finally, the president's legal advisor thanked the Chadian authorities for their hospitality and the kindness toward him during his visit, which demonstrates the esteem and high consideration existing between our two presidents as well as the brotherliness and the friendship between our two peoples.

Foreign Minister Departs for Ethiopia

LD202212 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic
2030 GMT 20 Feb 87

[Excerpt] Major Mohamed Lamine Ould Lemdayane, CMSN member and minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, left the capital last night for Addis Ababa to attend the 45th session of the OAU Ministerial Council, which will be held in the Ethiopian capital 23-28 February. [passage omitted]

MOROCCO

Communique Says 25 Feb Polisario Attack Repulsed

LD252105 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic
2000 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] The General Staff of the Royal Armed Forces issued the following communique:

This morning, Wednesday, 25 February 1987, at 0630, the Polisario Front launched an intensive attack using around 110 armored vehicles.

The objective was part of the security wall situated between the localities of Mahbes and el-Farsia, specifically, 40 km south of Ouedi Tinouchite, with the intention of storming the security wall defenses and penetrating the defense perimeter. The battles, which went on until 1100, were extremely fierce. During the attack, the Royal Air Force radar located batteries of SAM-6 antiaircraft missiles, and the enemy was warded off. The Royal Armed Forces are in control of the whole length of the defense line.

SUDAN

Official Urges USSR Mediation in War in South

JN251535 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1432 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] Khartoum, 25 Feb (SUNA) — Idris al-Banna, State Council deputy chairman, has called on Suleyman Tatliyev, head of the visiting Soviet parliamentary delegation, for USSR mediation to end the war in southern Sudan.

In a brief speech opening a news conference by the Soviet delegation here today, Al-Banna touched on the results of the delegation's visit to Sudan. He said the visit constitutes an advanced step toward restoring bilateral relations to normal after they were frozen by the defunct regime that took sides with U.S. policy.

Visit Aimed To 'Restore' Relations

JN251829 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1454 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] Khartoum, 25 Feb (SUNA) — Suleyman Tatliyev, head of the Soviet parliamentary delegation, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and chairman of the Azerbaijan SSR Soviet Presidium, has said that the delegation's visit to Sudan at the invitation of the Constituent Assembly was to restore relations between the two countries to normal.

In a news conference here today at the conclusion of the delegation's visit to the country, which began 17 February, Tatliyev added that he found a similar desire by the Sudanese officials to normalize and promote bilateral relations.

Tatliyev announced that the exchange of visits between the two countries will continue to achieve the desired objectives. He said that a group of Soviet officials have arrived in the country to discuss the possibility of rehabilitating and modernizing the projects undertaken with Soviet assistance.

Taj al-Din Leaves for Chad in Mediation Effort

JN251755 Khartoum SUNA in English 1716 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] Khartoum Feb 25 (SUNA) — Member of the State Council, 'Ali Hasan Taj al-Din, left here today for Chad leading the Sudanese committee entrusted to solve the Chadian conflict.

Dr. Taj al-Din visited recently Libya and Algeria in the framework of the Sudan initiative for solving the Chadian problem and this visit is his second to Chad for the same purpose.

Assembly Endorses 'Brotherhood Charter'

JN251857 Khartoum SUNA in English 1740 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] Khartoum, Feb 25 (SUNA) — The Constituent Assembly parliament endorsed today by the majority the Brotherhood Charter between Sudan and Egypt. The charter was signed recently by Premier al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and his Egyptian counterpart 'Atif Sidqi during Al-Mahdi's recent visit to Egypt. The Constituent Assembly member Khayr Muhammad (Al-Ummah Party) was the only member who opposed the endorsement of the charter.

Defense Ministry Official Sworn In

JN211551 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1445 GMT 21 Feb 87

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 21 Feb (SUNA) — Staff Major General Fadlallah Burmah Nasir, retired, took the constitutional oath before Deputy Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayn al-'Abidin al-Hindi today as a minister of state for defense affairs at the Ministry of Defense to assume his responsibilities. [passage omitted]

Customs Officers Begin Strike 22 February

JN221859 Khartoum SUNA in English 1722 GMT 22 Feb 87

[Text] Khartoum, Feb. 22 (SUNA) — Customs officers today entered a strike which covered all air and sea ports in addition to the 59 customs stations of Sudan's various regions.

Customs' officers trade union secretary-general 'Arafat Muhammad Ahmad said that no official body has so far contacted them pointing [as received] that the finance and economic planning minister has declined to meet them.

The strike of the customs officers which is expected to continue till current Feb. 28 has been carried out due to the finance minister's refusal to meet the customs' officers trade union's demands particularly the sending out of the customs' undersecretary and some of his aides.

Finance Minister Issues Warning

JN241823 Khartoum SUNA in English 1736 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] Khartoum Feb. 24 (SUNA) — Finance Minister Dr. Bashir 'Umar has warned the striking customs officers trade union to resume work within 12 hours.

He said in a statement issued here today the strike is illegal and he will take a legal measures toward it.

Port Sudan and Halfa harbours he said, were affected by the strike but the other stations are not affected.

The customs officers have started strike last Sunday and said their strike will continue till Feb. 28 on protest against not responding to their demands.

Al-Mahdi: Garang Subject to 'Foreign Shackles'

EA260005 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1750 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] Khartoum, 25 Feb (SUNA) — Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi reiterated in the Constituent Assembly today that Garang's movement is subject to foreign shackles and it is thus unable to enter into peace talks. Al-Mahdi said he had received envoys from Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi who persuaded him to review the government decision on halting talks with Garang's movement. He added that despite the government's agreement for a delegation representing the movement to come to Sudan as an indication of goodwill, the delegation had not come. He pointed out that he informed the Kenyan president, through the envoys, of the government's readiness to meet the leadership of Garang's movement anywhere, but said those undertaking this initiative were unable to move Garang's movement from its captivity.

SUNA Reports 'Outlaw' Attack on Village 25 Feb

EA260006 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1723 GMT
25 Feb 87

[Text] Madani, Sudan, 25 Feb (SUNA) — The village of (Khur Budi), about 6 km south of Al-Kurmuk, was this morning, Wednesday, subjected to a treacherous attack by the outlaw forces.

A report from SUNA in Al-Kurmuk said that five citizens and a member of the Armed Forces in the area were killed in the attack, while seven people, civilian and military, were wounded, some seriously. They were taken to Al-Kurmuk Hospital, which is still operating without a doctor.

This is the second time that the village of (Khur Budi) has been attacked by the outlaws. The attack follows the destruction by the Armed Forces of their supply camp in eastern Pibor last Sunday.

SPLA Ambush in Upper Nile Causes 9 Casualties

EA252250 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT
25 Feb 87

[Excerpt] An officer of Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's militia in Upper Nile was killed and eight militiamen critically injured on 10 February when they fell into an SPLA ambush near Akobo. The militia force was returning from a raid into the surrounding area for the purpose of looting cattle when a well-concealed SPLA patrol under the command of Captain (Peter Duowe Skuwane) opened fire. The dead militia officer has been identified as Lieutenant (Lual Choul Guwak). An assortment of rifles and ammunition was also left behind by the fleeing militia. [passage omitted]

SPLA Radio Reports Clashes on 20, 22 February

EA252251 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT
25 Feb 87

[Text] A convoy of enemy cars from Bor fell in an SPLA ambush by Rad Battalion under operational command of Captain (Alier Gaye) and First Lieutenant (Alier Byar) on February 20th 1987. Twenty seven enemy soldiers were killed in the ensuing fight, among whom was second lieutenant identified as (Omar Hassa), Lance Corporal (Suleman Adam at Amin), and many others were wounded. Correspondent accompanying Rad Battalion says that two of the enemy's lorries were completely destroyed.

In another development, a patrolling force of Hadid Battalion under the command of First Lieutenant (Ajak Nyepe) made sudden contact on February 22d 1987 between Jummayzah and Sudan safari with an enemy patrol. After the brief clash, the enemy patrol fled, living behind 5 dead and 11 injured soldiers.

Al-Mahdi Using VOA, BBC To Bolster Prestige

EA251449 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Arabic 1120 GMT
24 Feb 87

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] Problems are on the way: Last Friday you heard there was fierce fighting in Equatoria following a mutiny at the Yei and Yambio Army garrisons. The mutiny was a result of Al-Sadiq [al-Mahdi] sending people from the west to fight and destroy the lives of the people in the south. The westerners soon realized that they were being wrongly used, and they therefore decided to go against the orders of the Khartoum government. They were joined by the southerners in realizing this fact. What our boys from the west and south did is excellent and should be appreciated by all Sudanese, This is indeed a challenge to Al-Sadiq's trick of making those people he calls his slaves fight among themselves without good reason. [passage omitted]

Since the mutinies took place, Al-Sadiq has kept quiet about it. He did not talk about what took place in Yei and Yambio to Omdurman Radio, instead he blew his whistle to the BBC, and this was soon picked up by the Voice of America. In doing this, Al-Sadiq wanted wide publicity to show the whole world he is in full control of the situation in the country. He also wanted to strengthen the morale of those soldiers about to be sent to Pibor, making them think they are on the stronger side, which is a lie.

Al-Sadiq claims he has killed several hundred SPLA fighters in Pibor and captured a number of weapons, including two jeeps. Brothers and sisters, the report is the complete opposite of what actually took place in Pibor. The SPLA attacked and completely destroyed the Pibor government army barracks. [passage omitted]

With such a situation, how could Al-Sadiq, the son of Al-Mahdi, claim that he destroyed some SPLA lives in Pibor? This is a complete lie and nothing else. Lying is a traditional profession of Arabs like Numayri, Siwar al-Dhahab, and now Al-Sadiq, the son of Al-Mahdi. Al-Sadiq is now deceiving those people in Khartoum who live comfortably and enjoy drinking cold beer and whiskey in secret, completely ignorant of what is really happening at the front line. [passage omitted]

ETHIOPIA

Security Minister Receives Polish Counterpart

EA242154 Addis Ababa in English to Neighboring Countries 1530 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] A discussion which centered on the friendly relations between Ethiopia and Poland was held in Addis Ababa yesterday. The discussion was held by members of the Ethiopian delegation led by Comrade Tesfaye Wolde Selasie, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the WPE and minister of state and public security, and the members of the Polish delegation led by Comrade Czeslaw Kiszczak.

During the discussion, Comrade Tesfaye briefed the Polish delegation on the measures taken by the Ministry of State and Public Security. He noted that the Ministry of State and Public Security, established during the revolutionary process on the basis of the principles of scientific socialism and proletarian internationalism, has unity of purpose and objectives with socialist countries.

Eritrean Radio Reports 181 Government Casualties

EA241325 (Clandestine) Voice of the Broad Masses of Eritrea in Ahmaric 0530 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] The heroic combatants of the Eritrean People's Liberation Army in the area and our people's militia attacked a Dergue brigade based in three places at (Banseba), west of Asmera. In this attack on the Dergue army at (Mekersa), (Dektsehaye), and (Adi Hitase), our heroic combatants put 181 Dergue soldiers out of action: 70 killed and the others wounded. In addition, our heroic combatants captured 45 Kalashnikovs, 2 Brens, 1 RPG, 1 communications radio, and many bombs and ammunition.

UGANDA

Joint Communique With Zaire on Border Policy

EA241249 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 23 Feb 87

[Text] Uganda and Zaire have agreed to strengthen the spirit of goodneighborliness and establish security control and normal trade on both sides of the common border so as to ensure that no dissident activity and illegal trade are carried out.

In a joint communique issued at the end of the meeting held in Kasese, the two delegations agreed to ensure easy movement of the people on the common border.

On the issue of Ugandans' vehicles in Zaire, it was agreed that they would be returned to Uganda.

On customs, trade and smuggling, the two sides agreed on necessary cooperation between the border authorities and to effect legal trade and stamp out smuggling.

Speaking at the signing of the communique, the minister of state for internal affairs, Dr Kiiza Besigye, reiterated the importance of regular meetings in establishing permanent peace and security along the common border. He dismissed as unfounded rumors that there are Zaire dissidents on the border carrying out acts of sabotage against Zaire. Dr Besigye appealed for cooperation and unity along the common border.

The leader of Zaire delegation, Colonel (Langelo Gogo), assured his counterpart that what has been discussed in Kasese and in other previous meetings in Kinshasa and Bukavu will be implemented.

Rebels Reportedly Attack Gulu 15 February

EA251013 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 0400 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] Kampala: Five thousand rebel soldiers in Uganda, armed with modern weapons, are said to have attacked Gulu, a main town in Uganda, on 15 February and held it for an hour before being chased away by government soldiers.

A Ugandan Government official told newsmen in Kampala that since the rebels began attacking areas of northern Uganda last August, this is the sixth attack on Gulu town, 280 km north of the Ugandan capital, Kampala.

Reports from Kampala say the delay on the news on the attack is attributed to communications problems between Gulu and Kampala. The official said 26 civilians died in the attack and that the rebels also killed 2 Gulu prison guards and succeeded in freeing 300 prisoners.

The Ugandan Government has been saying the majority of the rebel soldiers are from the former UNLA [Uganda National Liberation Army] that was disbanded when President Yoweri Museveni took over in January last year.

CHAD

'Savage, Blind' Libyan Air Raids on Fada 24 Feb

AB251931 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French
1845 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] The Libyan Air Force bombed Fada again yesterday. The savage and blind air raids, which began at approximately 1200 [1100 GMT], continued until 1900 in the evening.

It will be recalled that violent clashes took place between the Chadian National Armed Forces [FANT] and the Libyan occupation troops at Zouar last Monday [23 February]. The communique issued by the FANT High Command announced that 28 Libyan soldiers were killed, considerable military equipment destroyed, and many Libyan soldiers wounded and taken away.

New Telecommunications Station Agreements Signed

AB221633 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French
0530 GMT 22 Feb 87

[Text] A great stride was made yesterday morning in the communications field that will help reduce our country's land-locked condition. In fact, two important ceremonies for the signing of a contract and convention relating to the new International Telecommunications Satellite Organization [Intelsat] earth station took place yesterday morning at the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications in Ndjamena. The ceremonies, which were presided over by Assilek Halata, minister of posts and telecommunications, were also attended by (Philipe Labaille), representative of Tele-Espace; (Acobcan), representative of France Cables and Radio; and (Halil Dabzat) and Baptiste Michel, joint managers of the TIT, the International Telecommunications of Chad. These officials, at various levels, initialed the documents relating to the new earth station, which were countersigned by the post and telecommunications minister. The signing of the contract concerns supplying the station with equipment while the convention concerns the technical implementation of the project to be carried out by Tele-Espace and France Cables and Radio. In the minister's opinion, these two ceremonies are of great importance for Chad as they will help put an end to the land-locked condition of our country and link it to the outside world. The new and long-awaited earth station will replace that built and inaugurated in 1978 known as the B-Standard Intelsat earth station. The old station, which was equipped with 17 telephone channels, all automatically linked to France, was not spared by the events that befell the country. The present TIT system is based on decametric waves and has only two semi-automatic channels — only two people can ask for and obtain a number in France or outside, and they must go through an operator.

The new station, the construction of which will begin soon, will have tne same characteristics as the old one but will have more channels — a total of 27 channels to link Chad to France and the rest of the world.

First, concerning the outgoing and incoming calls using the fully automatic system linking Chad to France, the Ndjamena or Paris subscriber can, from his office or residence, call the other party directly without passing through an operator. As for the incoming calls from the rest of the world using the fully automatic system, the caller in Washington or London can call Ndjamena directly. Finally, between Ndjamena and the rest of the world, with the semi-automatic system the caller would need an operator. The telex system is also fully automatic and its channels can be increased up to a total of 48 if necessary.

The implementation of the project will become effective when the loan agreement is signed in the near future. The new station will help improve the telephone services, make it possible to transmit data, and make telecopies — the remote-printing of documents. It will also help receive television programs and rent circuits. As the post and telecommunications minister stressed, thanks to this future station, the Chadian telecommunications system will enter its first era of modernization to meet the public's numerous demands.

BURKINA FASO

Angolan Official Meets With Sankara, Comments

AB231940 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French
1300 GMT 23 Feb 87

[Excerpt] Captain Thomas Sankara, CNR chairman and Burkina Faso president, granted an audience to an Angolan delegation this morning. The delegation was led by Pascual Luvualu, member of the MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee and National Union of Angolan Workers secretary general. Mr Luvualu told newsmen about the discussions his delegation held with President Thomas Sankara.

[Begin Luvualu recording] We came to the Burkinabe people and the National Revolutionary Council on a friendly mission. We also came to deliver a message from President Jose Eduardo dos Santos to Captain Thomas Sankara, his Burkinabe counterpart.

During our discussions, we dealt with issues related to the recent developments in southern Africa — notably, the aggressions perpetrated against our country and the situation in South Africa. We also discussed international issues.

We are very much satisfied with this audience with President Thomas Sankara. He was very understanding. We have always considered the Burkinabe people as a friendly people. We will extend this same feeling of friendship to the Angolan people. We were also impressed with your revolution, a revolution we could see everywhere in the country's important development projects. [passage omitted] [end recording]

THE GAMBIA

Interior Minister Interviewed on March Elections

AB221719 London BBC World Service in English
1500 GMT 21 Feb 87

[Interview with Gambian Interior Minister Alieu al-Badji by correspondent Robin Whyte in the "Talk About Africa" program; date and place not given — recorded]

[Text] [Whyte] Let us move on now to The Gambia where electioneering is under way for next month's elections. They look like being rather more interesting than previous ones, and certainly more violent. During the nominations last week, there were clashes between rival supporters, and the opposition is already accusing Sir Dawda Jawara's People's Progressive Party of foul play. What is making the elections more interesting is the birth of two new parties: one a socialist party, and one, the GPP [Gambian People's Party], founded by a couple of ex-ministers who have fallen out with Sir Dawda Jawara.

Mr al-Badji, you are Gambia's interior minister: Are these elections going to get out of hand as far as violence...

[Al-Badji, interrupting] I want to make it abundantly clear from the beginning that Gambian elections have never been violent, and will never be violent. To talk of more violence, in my mind, gives the impression that there has been some violence before. But I can assure you that the Gambian populace and the electors in particular do not have in their vocabulary the word violent, let alone to practice it.

[Whyte] But there was some trouble last week during nominations...

[Al-Badji, interrupting] There were some minor clashes, which I would not call violence at all. You talk about Sir Dawda's Progressive Party being accused of foul play. What is foul play?

[Whyte] Well, they said that it was supporters of the ruling party which began this violence.

[Al-Badji] How can that be? We are the ruling party and we are sure to be the ruling party after the elections. Why should we invite violence into our country? That is just an excuse by the opposition, knowing fully well that they are going to lose the next elections.

[Whyte] You are sure they are going to...?

[Al-Badji, interrupting] I am perfectly sure; I have just come from a countrywide tour of the country.

[Whyte] Are they going to do better than they had done in the past?

[Al-Badji] The opposition? No, I do not think. They will do worse, despite the fact that there are five parties contesting the elections. Two new ones, of course, are to be mentioned: the Marxist-Leninists — they call them socialists, but they are Marxist-Leninists — and they have only fielded five candidates out of the 36 constituencies. So that gives you the seriousness with which they are contesting the elections. Five out of 36. And with the GPP, whom we term the Greedy People's Party (?in Gambia), the founding members, two of whom as you said, were ex-ministers; one has since resigned, and the two ex-ministers are still there. [sentence as heard] Five years ago, they were singing and dancing to the tune of Sir Dawda. So it is not surprising that because they have fallen out of favor, they chose to form their own political parties. But the electorate is there to give the verdict, and the verdict will be given on the 11th of March 1987.

[Whyte] So what do you think the result will be?

[Al-Badji] Overwhelming support for Sir Dawda and his party.

[Whyte] Will you win all the seats?

[Al-Badji] Overwhelming support for Sir Dawda and his party.

[Whyte] Which party, in fact, do you think is the biggest threat to your party?

[Al-Badji] There is no party that is a threat to us.

[Whyte] It seems pretty clear-cut?

[Al-Badji] We are sure of winning the elections — fair elections.

[Whyte] Would it not in a way be a better thing for democracy in The Gambia if the opposition got a few more seats? I mean, it has been a one-man show now for quite a long time...

[Al-Badji, interrupting] Well, this is for the electorate to decide, not for our party. If they have confidence in us and are prepared to see us rule the country for as long as they want, what can we do?

[Whyte] When do you think Sir Dawda might retire?

[Al-Badji] That is for him to say.

[Whyte] You are the interior minister. Are you yourself even-handed during the elections? Are you going to be even-handed? After all, you control the police and so on and so forth. Can you be really even-handed?

[Al-Badji] We have always been even-handed. And we are going to be even-handed. I have told my people throughout the country that, as citizens, they have every right to cast their votes according to the dictates of their conscience; but I did also emphasize that their loyalities go first and foremost to the government of the day.

[Whyte] But if there were to be real trouble, how would the police force be used during the elections?

[Al-Badji] Well, they would be used according to the laws of the land.

[Whyte] You do not have the power of the gun over them. For instance — I am not saying you would — but do you have the power, as the law and order minister, to lock up the opposition?

[Al-Badji] We do not do that in The Gambia; we do not know that in The Gambia. This has never happened in The Gambia, and I am sure we are not thinking of anything like that now.

GHANA

Finance Secretary Announces 1987 Budget

AB202225 Accra Domestic Service in English
2000 GMT 20 Feb 87

[Excerpts] The secretary for finance and economic planning, Dr Kwesi Botchway, today announced the government's fiscal policy for 1987. He explained that the primary objective of the fiscal program is to further enhance incentives for production and at the same time to generate employment. Dr Botchway said the gross domestic product is expected to grow at not less than 5 percent per annum, while the rate of inflation is targeted at 15 percent.

The total revenues and grants are estimated at 109,711 billion cedis, while total expenditure is expected to be 109,407 billion cedis, leaving a surplus of 304 million cedis. On the existing setting of exchange rates, Dr Botchway said the dual system has been abolished and has been replaced by a unified auction system with immediate effect. He said the unified auction will thus determine the applicable rate for all transactions. Dr Botchway explained that at the time of instituting the auction system, it was decided to exempt crude oil and cocoa exports from the second window rate. It meant that farmers had been subsidizing crude oil imports and petroleum products for the past 8 months. He said this cannot be allowed to continue since it would otherwise mean going back to the old days when cocoa farmers provided cheap foreign exchange that was dissipated without being replenished even as the farmers themselves languished in conditions of extreme deprivation.

Dr Botchway said in order to secure purchasing power against the expected inflation and to allow for a further rise in real income, a 25 percent across-the-board increase in wages and salaries for the civil service is being implemented with effect from 1 January this year. The minimum wage goes up from 90 cedis to 112 cedis per day. Additionally, transport allowance of civil servants has been increased by 100 percent although the anticipated increase in fares with the petrol price increase is not expected to exceed 30 percent. Canteen allowance has been increased by 50 percent to 30 cedis per day. The new tax schedule also offers considerable tax relief to the worker. The highest marginal rate of 55 percent will apply to income levels exceeding 300,000 cedis per annum. In addition, the interest the government pays on securities purchased by SSNIT [Social Security and National Insurance Trust] has been raised from 6 percent to 16 percent. This should reflect in increase use of employees contributions. [sentence as heard] However, existing laws on taxation and allowances would be enforced. The allowances that are exempted from tax and the levels are 20 percent of salary as housing allowances; 15 percent as bonus, night duty allowance, and transport allowance not exceeding 800 cedis per month; canteen allowance not exceeding 600 cedis per month; car maintenance allowance not exceeding 2,500 cedis per month; motorcycle allowance not exceeding 600 cedis per month; and leave allowance not exceeding 1,500 cedis per annum.

Dr Botchway said in the area of tarrifs, an elaborate structure had been constructed over the years to compensate for the over-valued cedi. The policy of simplifying and rationalizing the tax system will now be vigorously pursued.

On corporate taxes, he said the current practice of the tax authorities which requires advance payment of taxes at the beginning of the quarter was based on the existing income tax law. This is now changed so that corporate bodies and self-employed persons will now pay at the end of each quarter. The corporate tax rate for manufacturing concerns is, therefore, reduced from 50 percent to 45 percent as an incentive to industrial enterprises as against mere commerce. The government has also decided to reduce import duty rates, especially on imported items which satisfy priority needs of the economy. Consequently, certain tax measures have been taken.

In recognition of the vital role transportation plays in the national economy, and to further moderate fares, a number of decisions have also been taken. Import duty and purchase tax on all commercial vehicles, motorcycles, bicycles, railway coaches, locomotives, fixtures, fittings, vans, and so on are abolished.

In respect of saloon cars, those with less than 1,800 cubic capacity [as heard] will also enjoy total exemption from import duty and purchase tax. Saloon cars with cubic capacities of more than 1,800 and up to 2,000 cubic capacity [as heard] will attract a reduced import duty rate of 15 percent and a pruchase tax of 10 percent. Luxury saloon cars of 2,000 cubic capacity [as heard] and above will attract an import duty of 30 percent, a purchase tax of 10 percent, and a penalty under the motor vehicle importation law as amended.

Spare parts, accessories, and lubricants will now attract a concessionary duty rate of 10 percent as part of the package of measures designed to hold fares down. It is also no longer necessary to obtain authorization from the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning before registering a motor vehicle. A tax clearing certificate obtained at the district level would be sufficient.

To stimulate local production, duty rates on basic raw materials like clinker, cotton, [words indistinct], raw jutes, and pig iron have been reduced from 20 percent to 15 percent. Other raw materials and capital goods, which attract duty of between 20 percent and 30 percent, will now attract a duty rate of 20 percent.

All raw materials for the manufacture of pharmaceutical products will attract a concessionary rate of 10 percent. Inputs into the agricultural sector like machinery, plant, tractors, and trailers and fertilizers will continue to be imported duty free.

On consumer goods, Dr Botchway said these will attract a duty rate of 25 percent instead of the current rate of 30 percent, which will continue to be charged on luxury goods. Foreign exchange shops have, until now, enjoyed concessionary rates of duty and sales taxes. Dr Botchway said this situation can no longer be justified, especially as similar goods imported under SUL [Special Unnumbered License] do not enjoy such subsidy. Accordingly, foreign exchange shops will, with immediate effect, pay the normal duties and sales taxes applicable to the goods they import. The 10 percent special sales tax on goods imported under special license, SUL, is abolished. The secretary said it is the objective of the government to encourage efficient domestic production and minimize the extent of dependence on imported goods. Import sales taxes are therefore being imposed on such goods as milk, rice, and prepared fish from other countries. Furthermore, the special taxes on some goods has been raised. The special tax of 50 cedis on a packet of cigarettes goes up to 100 cedis. The tax of 70 cedis per liter of beer, stout, cider, perrier, and ale goes up to 125 cedis per liter. Alcoholic beverages such as wine, gin, whisky, brandy, rum, schnapps, [word indistinct], and liquor will attract a special tax of 550 cedis per liter instead of 300 cedis. The tax on nonalcoholic beverages also goes up from 35 cedis per liter to 60 cedis. The special tax on textile fabrics remains the same.

Excise duties on all locally produced goods with the exception of petroleum products, tobacco, alcoholic, and nonalcoholic beverages have been merged into sales taxes. To reduce the cost of construction, the sales tax rates on a number of locally produced inputs for the housing industry have been revised downward. The tax on cement, roofing sheet, or paint will now be 10 percent instead of the existing 21 percent. Agricultural machinery, plants, and apparatus will continue to be exempted from sales tax. The 10 percent sales tax on the domestic consumption of electricity is abolished and will be passed on to consumers.

For the valuation of goods imported under special license, general superintendents' attestation of prices will now be accepted for customs purposes.

The finance secretary said in order to increase foreign exchange earnings, fresh incentives have been announced to encourage the nontraditional exports. The bonus retention level is being increased from 20 to 35 percent. Another measure to generate more foreign exchange is that the Bank of Ghana will now authorize licensed dealers, other than the banks, to set up bureaus de change to buy and sell foreign currency officially.

All gold and diamonds produced in the country are to be channeled into the national coffer. The PNDC has, therefore, decided that private gold dealers would be licensed as is done to diamond winners [as heard]. [passage omitted]

In reply to a question on the social consequencies of the budget on the worker, the secretary said the 26 percent increase in fuel price from 150 to 190 cedis per gallon will result in a maximum increase of 30 percent in transport fares. This increase will, however, be taken care of by the new allowances, the abolition of import duty and purchase tax on commercial vehicles, and a reduction of duty on spare parts and other accessories from 30 percent to 10 percent.

Asked why the government's redeployment excercise has not taken off, the secretary said the exercise had been hampered by heads of departments' unwillingness to take the blame for laying off redundant workers. He said some progress has, however, been made in ascertaining the excess number of redundant workers in the system and providing for their resettlement. As such, 3 billion cedis has been allocated for setting up centers which will advise laid-off workers on their entitlements and their resettlement.

Canadian Agency To Provide Education Grant

AB211655 Accra Domestic Service in English
1300 GMT 21 Feb 87

[Text] The Canadian International Development Agency has approved a 5 million Canadian dollars grant to rehabilitate the Accra Technical Training Center and the Kumasi Technical Institute. Under the program, some of the training equipment of the two institutions will be rehabilitated while a number of their teaching staff will be sent to Canada on various attachment courses. Furthermore, each institute will receive a Canadian expert for staff and curriculum development for 2 to 3 years.

The aid program was disclosed to the PNDC secretary for education and culture, Dr Ben Abdallah, when a three-member Canadian implementation team called on him in Accra. The PNDC secretary said the implementation of the project is most appropriate at the time when Ghana is restructuring her educational system to give emphasis to technical and vocational education through the junior secondary schools.

PNDC Member Receives Soviet, Indian Ambassadors

AB251950 Accra Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] A member of the PNDC, Mr Justice D.F. Annan, has said after 5 years of very difficult rule, the government is now poised to move further for the national development and reconciliation. The 30th independence anniversary celebrations are therefore intended to bring all Ghanaians together under the banner of the PNDC for progress after the stagnation and decline over the last few years. Justice Annan was speaking when the Soviet ambassador to Ghana, Mr Semenov, called on him at his office today to brief him on a Soviet delegation expected in Accra to participate in the celebrations. The delegation, which includes a cosmonaut, will be led by the minister responsible for irrigation and water resources. Mr Justice Annan hoped that since most Ghanaians live in the rural areas, the visit would enable the two countries to put together a program to benefit the rural people in irrigation and water supply. He added that the inclusion of a cosmonaut in the delegation will renew the tradition established by the late Yuri Gagarin, the first man to go to space, and Valentina Tereshkova, the first spacewoman, and thereby strengthen the bonds of friendship between Ghana and the Soviet Union. Speaking to newsmen later, Mr Semenov said the participation of the high-level Soviet delegation in Ghana's 30th anniversary celebration is to deepen and consolidate relations between both countries.

The Indian high commissioner to Ghana, Mr Singh Malik, also called on Mr Justice Annan to discuss how best the two countries can develop their areas of cooperation. The two men discussed the need to increase cooperation in the fields of agriculture, rural development, small-scale and cottage industry, and the setting up of employment-generating industries. They also discussed the training of Ghanaian personnel for our local industry and the provision of Indian experts to suit local needs.

GUINEA

France Grants Loans to Mining, Energy Sectors

AB251006 Conakry Domestic Service in French
0645 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] The French Central Fund for Economic Cooperation [CCCE] has just granted our country two loans amounting to Fr17 million. The protocol agreement on the granting of these funds to Guinea was signed yesterday by Lamine Belivogui, minister of economy and finance; Dr Ousmane Sylla, minister of natural resources energy and environment; and CCCE director (Guy Lekanuet), in Conakry. The funds will be used to finance feasibility studies for the exploitation of the Mount Nimba iron deposit project and its urgent supplementary program, as well as to provide equipment to the (?national) electricity company. This joint project with the Republic of Liberia, is also being financed by the European Investment Bank. These new loans confirm the desire of the CMRN [Military Committee for National Redress] and the government to develop the energy and mining sectors with French cooperation.

LIBERIA

Soviet Research Ship Arrives for 3-Day Visit

AB252225 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English
2000 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] The *Daily Observer* newspaper reports today that a Soviet research vessel arrived at the Free Port of Monrovia yesterday to begin geological exploration in Liberian territorial waters. The 68-meter long *(Basmakov)*, which is now berthed at the LMC [Liberia Marketing Company] pier, arrived at about 0830 on Wednesday morning with a team of 50 people, including geologists, chemists, engineers, and ship's crew. The Soviet vessel, according to (?plan), was expected to have carried out geological, seismic, and oceanographic research upon arrival yesterday, but the research failed to begin yesterday because there was no authorization from the Liberian Government. The authorization was due to have been obtained by the Polish Embassy in Monrovia through negotiations with the Foreign Ministry. The *Observer* says that efforts were made yesterday to contact the Foreign Ministry, but to no avail. Meanwhile, the chief of expedition, (Nukenev Graneriy), a geologist, is quoted as saying that the visit by the Soviet vessel is a follow up to the seventh symposium of the (Colten) Research Society in the United Kingdom. The research vessel will (?conduct research) into the magnetic and gravitational fields of the Liberian coast. The Soviet research vessel (Basmakov) will stay at the free port for 3 days.

Government Threatens Exporters With Embargo

AB232140 Paris AFP in French 1450 GMT 23 Feb 87

[Text] Monrovia, 23 Feb (AFP) — The Monrovia government has threatened to put an embargo on products to be exported from Liberia if the firms do not pay 25 percent of their benefits to the state, the official radio revealed today, quoting a Liberian official. John Bestman, governor of the National Bank of Liberia, declared over the weekend that a deadline for the application of the embargo had already been fixed for these firms last year. Since President Doe's announcements of a surtax last June, exporters have been reluctant to pay the 25-percent tax, which represents approximately $23 million. Until now, the government has been able to recover only $10 million due to the exporters' refusal to cooperate, Mr Bestman stated.

SENEGAL

Dakar University Students Call Off Strike

AB250735 Dakar Domestic Service in French
0700 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] We have just received some good news. The strike embarked upon by Dakar University students following the events of 22 January 1987 has been called off. In fact, at the end of the departmental meetings held yesterday evening, the Dakar students coordinating committee decided to call off the strike following the agreement signed with the government on 24 February. Classes will therefore resume at the university this morning [words indistinct].

ANGOLA

President on Oil Money, Agricultural Development

MB251700 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 25 Feb 87

["Impromptu" speech by Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the National Angolan Fuel Company, SONANGOL, in Luanda on 25 February — recorded]

[Excerpts] Long live the People's Republic of Angola! [audience: "Long live!"] From Cabinda to Cunene: [audience: "One people and one nation!"] The struggle: [audience: "Continues!"] Forward with the power: [audience: "Of the people!"] Victory: [audience: "Is certain!"]

Dear comrade members of the Central Committee and government, members of SONANGOL's management, workers and distinguished guests: In view of the long speech by comrade general manager of SONANGOL, I think I must not take more of your time. However, after hearing about so many things that have been done over the past 10 years of SONANGOL's existence, I could not help but come here to say a few words.

I would like first to congratulate all SONANGOL workers on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the founding of their company. I wish you much success in the fulfillment of the great task the party has assigned to you so that we may further strengthen our country by rationally exploring the oil resources of the People's Republic of Angola. [passage omitted on the successes attained by SONANGOL]

We have all been aware of the fact that oil is a strategic sector, fundamental to the survival of the People's Republic of Angola. We have rated defense as a major priority in the People's Republic of Angola. We have invested heavily in the Armed Forces [words indistinct]. From Cabinda to Cunene our people committed themselves to see to it that this priority defined by our party's congress could be fulfilled. The results are here to see: we have been scoring resounding victories against all our domestic and external enemies. We have also defined another major priority; namely, the reorganization and development of the oil and mining sectors. Priority has also been given to investments, and today we can see that oil has actually played a key role in the defense and development of the People's Republic of Angola in the past 10 years.

It has been 10 years and the question we should ask is whether we have been able to fully utilize all the financial resources allocated to us to boost national reconstruction and the development of other sectors of the national economy. For when we developed the oil sector we also had in mind the need to develop agriculture, livestock, manufacturing and heavy industry, fisheries, and so on. I believe that we have not always rationally utilized the resources (?as we did) in the oil sector. We must not continue this way unchecked. That is, we must not let our stomachs depend entirely on oil. In the past 10 years we did make a number of investments in sectors other than oil, but essentially we imported commodities.

Oil is not a renewable energy resource. It will eventually run out, and this means that should we not be able to utilize the financial resources acquired from oil sales to rapidly develop other sectors of the national economy, we will compromise our future. Accordingly, we must make even more efforts to end our excessive economic dependence on oil. A number of programs have been outlined by the party leadership, and our performance must be based on wisdom and determination to create other sources of income as quickly as possible in the next 10 years. These programs can include the mining, agricultural, and livestock breeding sectors. If in the past we were able to concentrate on the petroleum sector, even ignoring many incorrect procedures, we will now also be able to concentrate those same energies on specific programs in agriculture, livestock breeding, and manufacturing to end our excessive dependence on the petroleum sector, namely oil. [passage omitted on the attractive jobs offered by the oil industry and the literacy campaign among SONANGOL workers]

We have adopted a policy which I believe to be correct. It is a policy of diversity in cooperation. Our cooperation accords are reached on the belief that whoever offers the best conditions will succeed. We must continue on this path. Angola is a country open to international cooperation. Its cooperation policy is in fact based on mutual respect and equality. I believe, therefore, that the presence here of representatives of various foreign enterprises that cooperate with SONANGOL is an expression of the will of our partners to continue cooperating on a just basis with the People's Republic of Angola. We hail their presence, and we recommend that our petroleum sector further improve its organization and management systems. Those who are organized and know how to manage and are conversant in administration and technology can naturally establish, in a more realistic and just manner, accords with our partners to best serve the interests of the Angolan people and the People's Republic of Angola. [passage omitted on successful performance of SONANGOL]

We are now trying to create new sources of foreign exchange other than oil. So, let us rationalize our actions. I would like to once again stress that we must not live only off oil. The fall in the price of oil last year has shown that it is a serious mistake. Therefore, let us rationalize our (?interests) [words indistinct] to adjust ourselves to the (?situation) and prevent a negative impact on other sectors. We must create new sources of foreign exchange earnings and wealth in the agricultural and livestock breeding sectors as fast as we possibly can. We must not produce oil in order to buy food only because once oil is finished we will not have food. So, let us use oil to reorganize the agricultural and livestock breeding sectors to be self-sufficient in food in the context of national production. [passage omitted on congratulatory remarks on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of SONANGOL]

UNITA Claims 68 Soldiers Killed in Attacks

MB260726 Johannesburg International Service in English 0630 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] The antigovernment UNITA movement in Angola says it has killed 68 government troops in raids on Army barracks and in ambush of a military supply convoy. In a statement released in Lisbon, the movement said the biggest battles were fought in the Huambo and Cuando Cubango Provinces. UNITA said that 27 government troops were killed and a big cache of arms captured when they seized the barracks at Bela Vista, east of the central city of Huambo. The following day they ambushed a military column near the southern town of Menongue, killing 21 soldiers and destroying 19 military vehicles. The other soldiers were killed in attacks on the two government posts (De Cousa) and Monte Alegre. They listed their own casualties as 5 killed and 23 wounded.

'Top-level' Portuguese Mission Visits Savimbi

MB250950 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
0900 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] A top-level Portuguese political mission is in Jamba in southern Angola for talks with UNITA leader, Dr Jonas Savimbi. Our correspondent in Lisbon reports that it is the most important visit to areas under the control of UNITA ever undertaken by Portuguese politicians.

Special significance is attacked to the fact that a senior member of the ruling Social Democrats in Portugal, Dr Mario Santos, has been included in the mission. This indicates that the attitude of the Portuguese Government of not recognizing the UNITA movement has changed. It beams a signal to Dr Savimbi that should negotiations with the MPLA Government in Angola go ahead, he can count on the open support of the Portuguese Government.

Uige Commissar: Clemency Leaves UNITA 'Isolated'

MB251054 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese
0500 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] Yesterday, the Uige provincial commissar, Comrade Zeferino Estevao Juliana, assessed the situation in the province in 1986 and the prospects for 1987. Our reporter in Uige asked Comrade Zeferino Estevao about the current military situation and how the people of Uige are facing it.

[Begin Juliana recording] The situation in our province is calm. The enemy's actions are doomed to fail. They tried to destabilize the harmonious development in our province. Their intention was to link up with stray elements of the defunct FNLA organization. These intentions failed because of the implementation of the clemency policy decreed by our party. From that moment on, the enemy has been completely isolated. At this moment we can say that they limit their operations to random attacks. When, for example, the enemy tried to attack the Sanza Pombo municipality, our forces routed them and captured a large quantity of war materiel. We can say that the enemy's objectives have failed. [end recording]

He also noted that 4,000 compatriots were reintegrated into society following the second phase of the clemency policy. Statements from the coordinator of the Uige Provincial Reintegration Committee, Dirciso Garcia, mention that in 1985, 66 compatriots of the former Comira [Military Committee of the Resistance in Angola] organization were integrated into different socioeconomic sectors of our society. Six were appointed municipal communal commissars deputy commissars. Another five — two officers, two communal officials, and a professor — were elected deputies of the Uige People's Assembly. Dirciso Garcia also mentioned that, in addition to several junior and noncommissioned officers, three compatriots were appointed senior officers and are now playing important roles in the Angolan Armed Forces.

Some efforts have been made in Uige by the state secretary for social affairs and by the Ministry of Agriculture to train the former Comira elements in the ideological, political, and professional fields.

MOZAMBIQUE

Drought, MNR 'Banditry' Cause Hunger in Gaza

MB251430 Maputo in English to Southern Africa
1100 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] Approximately 30,000 people are threatened with hunger in the district of Massingir in the southern Mozambican Province of Gaza. This number is almost equal to the total population of the district. The district administrator, Antonio Bila, seys the crisis are the result both of scanty rainfall and the banditry of the South African-backed MNR. Although there has been reasonable rainfall over most of Mozambique, he says, pockets of drought have persisted in the interiors of Gaza and the neighboring Province of Inhambane. Last year, he says, 312 head of cattle had died when the pastures had completely dried up. A further 4,700 heads were moved from dry areas to pasture along the banks of the Elefantes River. Over 3,300 cattle were also moved from areas affected by MNR banditry. A further concern of the district authorities is the dramatic shortage of clothing in the district. In some parts of Massingir, parents have forbidden their children to attend schools because they possess no clothes.

NAMIBIA

Minister Seeks 'Effective Control' of SWATF

MB251444 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1356 GMT
25 Feb 87

[Text] Windhoek Feb 25 SAPA — The political realities of Africa and the Third World demanded that the SWA/Namibian Transitional Government [TG] take effective control of the SWA Territory Force, the minister of national health, Mr Moses Katjiuongua, said in Windhoek today.

Speaking at a military parade, Mr Katjiuongua said it should not be forgotten "for one moment" that SWAPO, who refused to discuss a peaceful and democratic settlement with the Transitional Government, "oppose us with arms and violence. They have an army and trained saboteurs." Mr Katjiuongua recalled the words "of a world statesman who once said political power grows out of the barrel of a gun. This is particularly true for Africa and most of the Third World. It is also true for Namibia." The SWA/Namibian Transitional Government recognised that reality, Mr Katjiuongua said. "That is why we would like to have effective control over the SWATF as part of the process of national self-determination, nation-building and the preparations for peaceful and stable independence," he said. "It is our understanding that the South African Government has full undertanding for these aspirations."

Mr Katjiuongua added: "When we say we want power we mean real power and we mean business."

Cabinet Reacts to 'Provocative' Pienaar Speech

MB251917 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1915 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] Windhoek Feb 25 SAPA — The SWA/Namibian Transitional Cabinet tonight described as "provocative" a speech by the administrator-general, Mr Louis Pienaar, at the opening of the National Assembly in Windhoek yesterday.

A cabinet statement, issued as a political confrontation with South Africa loomed after an extraordinary cabinet session this afternoon, said the SWA/Namibian Cabinet would in due course communicate with the South African state president, Mr P.W. Botha, regarding Mr Pienaar's speech.

The statement was issued after a majority vote of the eight-member transitional cabinet, with the representatives of the SWA National Party and the Rehoboth Liberated Democratic Party dissenting from issuing the statement.

News reports in Windhoek today said the SWA/Namibian Cabinet would fly to Cape Town shortly to meet Mr Botha following a visit last weekend to the state president by Mr Pienaar which preceded his controversial policy statement on the political process in SWA/Namibia.

Mr Pienaar's speech caused considerable political controversy in SWA/Namibia. A Democratic Turnhalle Alliance statement last night said the administrator-general's remarks were seen "in a very serious light." Political observers reported that the DTA — a major component of the Transitional Government — at one stage during an executive meeting last night considered pulling out of the Transitional Government.

The cabinet statement tonight said Mr Pienaar's speech displayed "a measure of confusion" concerning his role in the government dispensation. Mr Pienaar's function was not only to represent the state president in SWA/Namibia. He also had to convey the views of the SWA/Namibian Cabinet to the best of his ability to the South African Government. With the exception of certain law requirements, the administrator-general was "bound to act only on the recommendations of, and in accordance with, the directions, directives or policy (if any) laid down by the — SWA/Namibian — Cabinet" as stipulated by the state president's Proclamation R101, which instituted the Transitional Government on June 17, 1985.

"Suffice it to say that the cabinet did not recommend that the administrator-general should express himself in the manner in which he did on this occasion in the assembly," the statement said.

The Transitional cabinet did not believe it was Mr Botha's intention to restrict the legislative powers of the SWA/Namibian Government beyond the limitations prescribed in Proclamation R101, notably the government's competence to change the international status of SWA/Namibia. The statement said the Transitional Government, contrary to Mr Pienaar's accusations, had on numerous occasions urged political leaders outside the government to take an active part in the SWA/Namibian constitutional process. "The cabinet does not believe that it requires further tutelage on the process of consultation on constitutional questions," the statement said.

It added that the Transitional cabinet shifted the duty to Mr Pienaar to use "whatever influence he has at his disposal" to encourage "those importance leaders in the SWA set-up" to join the process of national reconciliation in spite of the leaders' repeated refusals to invitations to do so.

The SWA/Namibian Transitional Government had every intention of incorporating the "legitimate rights" of minorities in a constitution, but it was equally determined to eliminate all traces of statutory racism and enforced ethnic separation. "There is no going back on that decision," the statement said.

The Cabinet of SWA/Namibia remained confident that South Africa would continue in its commitment to the territory's people's right of self-determination "free from outside interference," the statement said.

SOUTH AFRICA

Pik Botha on Shultz Statement on Sanctions Veto

MB250948 Johannesburg Television Service in English 0500 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Excerpts] American Secretary of State George Shultz says America is urging other countries to impose sanctions on South Africa, but he has expressed sympathy for U.S. companies operating in the Republic. Answering questions before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Mr Shultz said the United States had voted against mandatory sanctions in the United Nations, even though the resolution would not have made America do anything it was not already doing. He added that the move was a matter of principle. He said sanctions would have the best chance of working if they were applied uniformly by leading countries.

Approached for comment by Good Morning South Africa, the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Botha, said in Cape Town that Mr Shultz had not proposed any expansion of sanctions against South Africa.

A member of the Foreign Relations Committee, Senator Richard Lugar, had asked Mr Shultz why the U.S. representatives at the United Nations had vetoed the sanctions resolution before the Security Council. Senator Lugar put it to Mr Shultz that the United States had acted incorrectly by not supporting the sanctions resolution. Mr Shultz replied that the U.S. decision was correct in principle. Mr Shultz added that the Congress sanctions legislation had created an unfavorable climate for American companies and, as a result, some had withdrawn.

Mr Shultz is opposed to withdrawals. As far as attempts to persuade other countries to impose sanctions on South Africa are concerned, Mr Shultz said that congressional legislation demanded that the United States discuss this with other countries, but that this was not such a big issue for them.

Mr Botha said it was clear that Mr Shultz was merely explaining the U.S. opposition to sanctions in the Security Council, after Senator Lugar had attacked him.

Pik Botha 'Knows Nothing' About Contra Weapons

MB260655 Johannesburg International Service in English 0630 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] Our representative in Washington reports that the American television network ABC alleges that South African aircraft and pilots are helping to ferry American weapons to the resistance movement in Nicaragua, in Central America. Our representative says it is claimed that Lieutenant Colonel Oliver North, formerly of American naval intelligence, had said in El Salvador that pilots of a third country had undertaken weapon flights to Nicaragua. ABC alleges that these pilots were South Africans.

In response to an inquiry this morning by our political staff, the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, said he knew nothing about the matter.

Pik Botha Welcomes 4 Released From Zambia Prison

MB251754 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1753 GMT 25 Feb 87

[By Norman Patterton]

[Text] Johannesburg Feb 25 SAPA — The four agriculturalists who flew home to South Africa today after being detained for nine months in Lusaka, declined to discuss the treatment they had received in prison when they addressed a news conference at Jan Smuts Airport tonight. All four look fairly healthy, although very thin in their T-shirts, jeans and tackies [tennis shoes]. Said a grinning Mr Randolph Keyser: "Nineteen eighty seven only starts for me now."

The minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha who was at the airport to welcome the four, told them: "We are happy that you are back." He said his department had worked closely with a Pretoria attorney, Mr Erst Penzhorn, who had negotiated their release.

Mr Penzhorn said Mr Keyser, Mr Rudolph Otterman, Mr Bernardt Koch and Mr Duncan Vause — who are all single — would go to their parents' homes from Jan Smuts to recover.

He said Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda said in Lusaka today that he was satisfied that they had arrived in Zambia as tourists — but they had been asked by South African security forces there to gather intelligence. Mr Penzhorn said he had ascertained however that none of the men had been briefed by intelligence agencies. He asked the media not to question the men about their treatment in prison as this would "serve no point."

Mr Penzhorn said Dr Kaunda had said that the prisons were in a bad condition because of the country's economic problems.

Mr Koch told the conference that he would like to thank Mr Botha for everything he had done to secure their release. "We for sure have a good country," he said.

He said the party had been arrested at a roadblock in the north of Zambia on May 27 last year while travelling through the region to study agricultural methods.

Mr Otterman, when asked about reports that the four South Africans had been subjected to barbaric forms of torture, said: "I'd like to forget that part."

Mr Keyser said they had had to pay for their food in the Lusaka prison. Mr Penzhorn had been taking them food from South Africa.

Mr Keyser's eyesight had deteriorated badly because he had spent much of his time reading. "I now need a break after being held for nine months without trial," he said. He warned travellers to think carefully before visiting Zambia. "Just a delicate small thing can go wrong and snowball, and in our case we had done nothing wrong," he said. He said the group had travelled in their private capacities.

NUM Opens Fifth Annual Congress in Johannesburg

Winnie Mandela Speaks

MB251818 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1814 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] Johannesburg Feb 25 SAPA — Winnie Mandela opened the National Union of Mineworkers' fifth annual congress in Johannesburg today with a speech on behalf of her husband Nelson Mandela, the jailed ANC leader, and honorary life president of the union.

About 2000 delegates from 12 NUM regions around the country gathered under colourful banners proclaiming "1987 — the year mineworkers take control" this afternoon to hear keynote speeches by Mrs Mandela and the NUM's president, Mr James Motlatsi

Mr Motlatsi said in his address the task of the congress was to make important decisions about the union's course of action "at a time of immense crisis in our country and southern Africa." He said the abolition of migrant labour and the hostel system, adequate health and safety in the mines in the wake of the Kinross disaster, and a campaign for a living wage should form the main areas of NUM's activities this year.

Other key issues to be discussed at the congress included:

— The fight to stop the repatriation of union leaders and Mozambican workers.

— The building of unity between miners unions in the subcontinent.

— The union's policy on energy, retrenchments and mechanization.

— The formulation of a political programme.

Paying tribute to the leadership of NUM, Mrs Mandela said the union had "given back the miner his pride, his dignity, his worth." "The National Union of Mineworkers was set up as an instrument to secure the mine worker's rights and to contribute to the liberation of the mineworker who can never be free unless the rest of the oppressed are free in racially torn South Africa," she said.

Mrs Mandela said she wanted to "remind the racists that the mines belong to the people and the National Union of mineworkers is the people's instrument to liberate the people's wealth."

She also appealed to sectors of the business community to participate in the dismantling of apartheid and the redistribution of wealth.

She slammed an American State Department report outlining the SA Communist Party's role in the ANC as "red threats" designed to frighten businessmen and other white South Africans. "All responsible South Africans have a duty to save our country from the lunacy of apartheid." she said.

"It is in this area that the importance of NUM, COSATU and all other labour movements in joint consultation with the business sector cannot be overemphasized even though until recently the business sector has been part and parcel of the status quo and will be viewed with suspicion for a long time by the worker."

Mrs Mandela said it was appropriate that the congress was being held at the National Exhibition Centre at Crown Mines, Johannesburg, as it was on those mines that her husband began working as a migrant labourer in 1941 after being expelled from the University of Fort Hare for organizing a student strike. "I feel I stand here before you by default. He would have loved to have been with you today, she said.

In his speech Mr Motlatsi pointed to a joint NUM/Anglo American report on mine violence which found the cause of the problem to be in the hostel and migrant labour systems. He called on mine owners to begin negotiations towards finding alternative forms of employing and housing labour. "Either negotiations start with the NUM to begin the process of dismantling the migrant labour system and establishing workers control of the hostels, or the mineworkers seize control without their involvement."

He said the union would push for an agreement with the Chamber of Mines to ensure improved health and safety on the mines despite the chamber's alleged opposition to this. "The NUM has already accepted the miner's bill of rights and this will be our lodestar during the health and safety campaign."

This was the year NUM would launch a massive campaign to fight for a living wage, he added. "The campaign for a living wage is the first phase of our struggle for a better distribution of wealth in this country."

The congress will last until Saturday, and the union is expecting many more delegates to arrive as it gets down to the task later this week of formulating policy resolutions for the year.

Other speakers at the congress opening ceremony include the general secretary of the Congress of Trade [South African] Unions, Mr Jay Naidoo, the publicity secretary of the United Democratic Front, Mr Murphy Morobe, and the NUM'S general secretary, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa.

UDF's Morobe Urges Greater Unity

MB260446 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0036 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] Johannesburg, Feb 25 SAPA — The government banning of the African National Congress adverts earlier this year showed how "shaky the apartheid rule is", Mr Murphy Morobe, publicity secretary of the United Democratic Front, said today.

In a rare public speech he told the National Union of Mineworkers' fifth annual congress that the government was facing a crisis because its methods of governing had been rejected in townships and villages all over the country.

The governments' response to the UDF's adverts calling for the unbanning of the ANC in its 75th anniversary year showed how "shaky the apartheid rule is".

The State of Emergency and mass detentions were "nothing else but a reflection of a government that has lost all the political arguments and has therefore resolved that coercion and repression are the only forces it can muster".

He said the government had turned a blind eye to "vigilante death squads" that have been deployed in townships and rural areas to harass anti-apartheid activists and trade unionists.

The Congress of South African Trade Unions, the biggest labour federation in the country to which NUM is affiliated, and the UDF were natural allies in the fight against such oppression, he said.

"We know how it is for people to go to work in the morning and find their shacks demolished when they come back home. To such people it is completely artificial to build a Chinese wall between trade unions and community organisations."

Mr Morobe told the mineworkers gathered at the congress they had been in the forefront of opposition to apartheid and that increased unity between the UDF and COSATU would strengthen their joint struggle.

NUM President on 'Economic Crisis'

MB260453 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0041 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] Johannesburg, Feb 25, SAPA — The National Union of Mineworkers was one of the fastest growing trade unions in the world and South Africa's largest with more than 360,000 members, the NUM president, Mr James Motlatsi, said in Johannesburg today. Mr Motlatsi, speaking at the fifth NUM annual congress, said South Africa is in the midst of a structural economic crisis which has not improved conditions for the vast majority of people.

"What the crisis has done is put the control of economic resources in fewer and fewer hands.... Monopoly capitalism has put the ownership and control of the wealth of this country in the hands of a few giant companies."

He said the crisis is a crisis of capitalism because it will not be able to address the needs and demands of the workers.

Mr Motlatsi challenged mine management to discuss with the union how to end the hostel system on the mines which he said was developed over a century ago and has kept miners in conditions of "wage slavery and oppression."

"Death, it seems, has become a feature of mining life," Mr Motlatsi said referring to the 177 miners who died at the Kinross mine in the eastern Transvaal last September.

Despite "massive profits made by the mining industry, very little is spent on safety...it is only when disasters like Kinross strike that everyone takes notice of safety on the mines," he said. He added that the NUM would fight for a say in mine safety and health despite the Chamber of Mines' refusals to negotiate with the union over safety.

COSATU's Naidoo Gives Address

MB260457 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0044 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] Johannesburg, Feb 25, SAPA — Millions of South African workers were at the "crossroads" and faced another year living under a system of "profit and apartheid oppression", the general secretary of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), Mr Jay Naidoo, said tonight.

Speaking at the opening of the fifth annual congress of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) — an affiliate of COSATU — Mr Naidoo said that as the unions were giving workers more control over their lives in the workplace, democratic structures in the townships were doing this too.

Referring to the decision made at the launch of COSATU in November, 1985, to call for "one union one industry", Mr Naidoo said the campaign had not been "as successful as hoped.

"At our launching workers resolved to merge in six months. It is now 14 months and we still do not have one union in one industry in many sectors. Yet the bosses have organised themselves nationally and internationally," Mr Naidoo said.

About half of COSATU's membership came from the NUM, and mineworkers therefore had a crucial role to play in strengthening COSATU structures.

"Build the shop steward councils, in your areas as they are the pillars on which COSATU stands. Let the councils become the organised voice of worker unity your area," he said.

NUM today carried forward the proud traditions of "militancy and resistance' shown by mineworkers throughout South African history, he said.

"You have built a powerful organisation and today you can speak with the voice of 360,000 miners united in strong democratic structures with thousands of shaft stewards in the mines and hostels."

Mr Naidoo said the past year had seen "intensified attacks" against workers and accused management of "provoking" tribal fighting on the mines "which is used to break our unity and power".

Urging worker unity, Mr Naidoo said: "We must especially unite our mass strength behind a clear, co-ordinated, united, national living wage campaign linked to the organization to the organisation of the unemployed.

Referring to sanctions, Mr Naidoo said COSATU believed the moves to block trade were "aimed at destroying the stranglehold of apartheid which has been declared a crime against humanity".

"Let the bosses carry the burden of sanctions — not us," Mr Naidoo said.

NUM's Ramaphosa on Sanctions

MB260500 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0048 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] Johannesburg, Feb 25, SAPA — The Congress of South African Trade Unions has commissioned a study to assess the effect of sanctions on job losses and on the economy, the National Union of Mineworkers general secretary, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, said tonight.

Presenting NUM's annual report for 1986 to the Union's fifth congress which opened in Johannesburg today, Mr Ramaphosa said both NUM and COSATU had passed resolutions in favour of sanctions.

But the report said workers should "not lose sight of the fact that sanctions, and other forms of international action, are in solidarity with the liberation struggle in South Africa.

"They are not a substitute for...that struggle. We therefore need to examine how these sanctions will advance struggles being waged in South Africa."

In a review of industrial action during 1986, the report said

NUM members had accounted for 42.8 per cent of the total number of manhours lost during strikes.

Miners staged 113 strikes involving over 250,000 workers, excluding mass stayaways during the year.

"The massive stayaway by mineworkers on October 1 in response to the Kinross disaster ought to be a warning that if mine management continue to neglect safety, it will cost them more than a day's production," it said.

During the year 133 workers were killed and hundreds severely injured in violence in seven mines, the report said.

It added a joint study by Anglo American and the NUM into the causes of the violence had identified the following factors:

— Poor conditions of employment encouraged conflict amongst workers.

— The highly regulated environment of single sex hostels was the single most important cause of violence.

— Ethnic differences were not the cause of conflict although once fighting breaks out, it tends to be channeled along ethnic lines.

— Outside forces have offered their services to management to instigate faction fighting and weaken the union on the mines.

As a result, the most important draft resolution to be discussed at the congress was NUM's call for the abolition of hostels and the migrant labour system.

OK Stores Announces Settlement of CCAWUSA Strike

MB251526 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1525 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] Johannesburg Feb 25 SAPA — The national strike which has affected 120 OK stores and 7120 OK staff throughout the country has ended, Mr Gordon Hood, OK managing director announced today. In a statement in Johannesburg he said: "This follows successful mediation between the OK and the Commercial, Catering and Allied Workers Union (CCAWUSA), which has accepted the OK's final offer of substantially improved conditions of service to become effective on April 7. The settlement will remain valid until negotiations for the April 1988-March 1989 wage cycle commence in mid-February next year. "CCAWUSA has advised the striking workers to return to work by Monday March 2 in terms of the agreement which has been reached."

Announcing details of the new package for OK employees, Mr Hood said: "When the strike began on December 18 last year, the average salary of all OK employees up to the level of supervisor was R489 per month. In terms of this agreement, all employees will enjoy significantly improved benefits including:

"Wages: an across-the-board increase of R100 per month to be given in two stages of R50, effective in April and November.

"Minimum wage: the minimum wage for existing employees currently in the OK's service will be R400 per month as from November 7.

"Staff discounts: an increase in staff discounts from 10 per cent to 12 per cent with effect from April 7 1987.

"Maternity leave: improved maternity leave benefits including the payment of negotiated increases upon return to work and a pro-rata bonus.

"Privileged leave: the company has made a major concession in that all privileged leave which was forfeited as a result of the strike action will be re-instated.

"Loans: in order to assist staff with debts that may have accumulated during the strike, the company is offering loans of up to half of one months salary, payable over three months.

"Dismissals: of the 551 staff members dismissed during the strike, 364 employees will be reinstated unconditionally."

The statement quoted Mr Hood as saying: "While we are naturally very pleased that this dispute has been resolved, it is regrettable that so many workers and their families have suffered so much hardship while the strike was in progress. My management and I have constantly stressed that issues such as those giving rise to the strike can be resolved by negotiation, and that we are always willing to talk to our employees and their representatives.

"This confrontation, the severe impact on striking employees, the unfortunate disruption of our business, and the unacceptable violence and intimidation by some of the strikers were all unnecessary. These events could have been averted had the spirit which we encountered during mediation prevailed before the strike was called.

"At the same time, I want to express the OK's deep appreciation to our management and the loyal employees — both full-time and casual — who ensured that it was business as usual during the past two months. In spite of many difficulties they have provided our customers with our traditonal high standards of service and attention. Their loyalty and dedication made the impact of the strike minimal, and we can only hope that, in future, realism in wage demands and willingness to negotiate will prevent a recurrence of the recent event from which nobody benefitted.

"However, the strike is now behind us. We have learnt a great deal from the experience. We welcome back our striking workers. And we anticipate a positive era for the OK. Together we will work for the mutual benefit of both customers and staff."

Pretoria Council Opens Theaters to All Races

MB251949 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1932 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Excerpts] Pretoria Feb 25 SAPA — The Pretoria City Council tonight decided to allow the opening to all races of all remaining whites only cinemas in Pretoria.

The Federation of Ratepayers Associations Nationalist-backed governing majority, with backing from Progressive Federal Party councillors, outweighed noisy and strong opposition to the move form the council's Herstigte Nasionale and Conservative Party councillors in terms of the recommendation which was adopted.

The council not only gave the go-ahead for reopening of four cinemas which were closed on February 5 because of vacillation on attempts to get permission for them to be multiracial, but all remaining 11 closed cinemas in Pretoria. The four cinemas which formed the focal point of the row were closed after the council had been unable to give the management's the go-ahead for multiracial performances, and after American distributors had demanded that they be opened to all races — or face a cut-off in films supplied. [passage omitted]

In terms of today's recommendation from the management committee, the opening of all cinemas was proposed against the background that there had not been a single race incident at any of the open theatres. It was also noted in the recommendation that throughout South Africa all cinemas were open to all races except for two in Transvaal Platteland towns and 11 in Pretoria of the city's 26. [passage omitted]

Information Bureau Issues 25 Feb Unrest Report

MB260912 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0911 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] Pretoria, Feb 26, SAPA — The Bureau for Information's unrest report for the period 0001 to 2400 February 25:

"A man, Elliot Mahlangu (25) was fatally wounded and a woman, Camelia Cele (19) sustained serious head injuries when unidentified black radicals fired shots at a private home in Kwamakutha (Amanzimtoti) the night before last. Two children also sustained slight injries in this incident. No arrests have yet been made and police investigations are continuing.

"A security force member who was doing guard duty at the Mohladi Secondary School in Sharpeville (Vereeniging) was stoned by black radicals yesterday. Other members of the security forces came to his aid and their swift action led to the arrest of a youth in connection with the incident.

"A black man sustained slight burn wounds when his home in Mamelodi (Pretoria) was petrol bombed early yesterday morning. A petrol bomb was also thrown at the home of a SAP member in the same township. Damage in both cases was reported as being minimal. No arrests have yet been made.

"A few stone throwing and petrol bomb attacks were the only other unrest related incidents reported during the abovementioned period. No injuries or arrests were reported as a result of these incidents and damage was reported as being minimal."

Press Comments on Current Issues, Problems 24 Feb

MB240706 [Editorial Report]

THE CITIZEN Critical of Independents

The page 6 editorial in Johannesburg *The Citizen* in English on 23 February says the resignation of some Stellenbosch academics "may be followed by more resignations, but there have been other revolts by academics in the past, without changing the course of history, and the present one won't bring any great change either, whatever the PFP press claims." "Since *The Citizen* has always called for quicker reform, it might be argued that it is taking a contradictory stand by criticising those who are going into the election as Independents on the basis that reform is not quick enough. The answer is a simple one: Independents have no role to play. The attempt to form an alliance of 'moderates' is a futile political excercise. And the chances of further and quicker reform are dependent on the NP being returned with a strong enough majority to encourage it to embark on more far-reaching and faster change."

THE STAR on Brain Drain

A page 12 editorial in Johannesburg *The Star* in English on 23 February notes that "the loss of engineers alone in the Great South African Brain Drain of '86 — considering how much they cost the taxpayer to educate — was in the region of R18 million." "One can argue that up to a point the country can take the loss of 83 scientists, 33 quantity surveyors, 30 architects, 616 engineers, 53 journalists and so on; after all there has been a serious decline in jobs because of the recession." But, "what is unarguably serious is that so many well-educated people should have given such an unequivocal vote of no confidence in their country." "Until we can pull ourselves out of this period of leaderless wandering in the field of human relationships the country's negative aspects will more and more tend to feed upon themselves; and the current drain of three professionals a day could become a crippling rout."

BUSINESS DAY on Government Lack of Vision

A page 6 editorial in Johannesburg *Business Day* in English on 23 February comments on the resignation of Stellenbosch academic Prof Sampie Terreblanche saying "that such a man should resign from the NP is a matter of much greater significance than the resignation of Wynand Malan [former NP MP for Randburg]." *Business Day* believes that Terreblanche has "stood out as the quintessential Afrikaner Nationalist." Terreblanche has pointed out that the NP's crisis "goes far beyond the personality of the president." "Terreblanche has now said what we, along with many other critics, have been saying about the NP: it is bereft of ideas, clinging to office only to spend ever growing amounts of money on things like R4m pop songs and incomprehensible work-flow charts. No will, no vision, no plan."

Owen Criticizes Government 'Group-Think'

"Beneath the turmoil in white politics lie difficult questions about the shape of post-apartheid SA," writes Ken Owen on the same page. "For the moment, the question before the electorate is not whether any reform government might be better than the Nationalists, but whether anything could be much worse." Owen points out that "having perceived the impracticality of apartheid, and having abandoned the (barely sane) consistency of Verwoerd, the NP has balked at taking its new thinking to a logical conclusion. It clings mindlessly but desperately, to group-think." "The only alternative, as every Western precedent tell us, is to shift the focus of the search for security from the group to the individual. And it is the political task of serious performers to persuade the New Nats that a determination to negotiate with Nelson Mandela is not enough; a new system, rooted in common values and calling upon the classical liberal mechanisms to curb the power of the strong, is needed."

CAPE TIMES on NP Manifesto

"The NP's obsession with apartheid comes through loud and clear in the Nationalist election manifesto," says a page 8 editorial in Cape Town *Cape Times* in English on 20 February. "Rather than reformist, the NP manifesto is profoundly retrogressive, promising an entrenchment of apartheid at all levels of political life." The paper also points out that President Botha and Minister for Constitutional Development and Planning Chris Heunis "instead of reverting to non-racialism, are still propagating compulsory group areas and race classification and insisting that political representation at all levels from local government upwards should be racially based on a system of compulsory group membership." The government also rejects the Natal Indaba proposals "because it breaks away from ethnicity to a great extent and would restore the tradition of nonracial representation."

SOWETAN: Evictions Continue

Thabiso Leshoai writes in the "Focus" column on page 6 of Johannesburg *Sowetan* in English on 23 February that "the rent disputes that have rocked the lives of South Africa's black township dwellers for the last three years appear to be entering that dreadful phase of the uneasy calm before the renewed storm." "Unemployment among blacks stands at seven to 10 million, while rent arrears for the average township house stand at well over R900 a house." Despite the uncertainty as to the rights and powers of the black city councils "eviction notices are still being served on people without legal representation, bringing to a slow boil the pot of confusion and drowning out in the process the feeble calls for a 'negotiated settlement.'"

RAPPORT on Worrall Vagueness

Johannesburg *Rapport* in Afrikaans on 22 February comments in a page 26 editorial on former ambassador to London Denis Worrall's decision to stand as an independent in the forthcoming elections saying that "if Dr Worral wants to make a point then he will have to get rid of his vagueness. At this stage he offers no vision, no solutions for the bottlenecks, and no clear model and procedure to achieve clarity. To fight an election riding on the back of a political mood of 'unhappiness, economic stagnation and increasing international isolation,' and to 'seek light at the end of the tunnel' is not good enough." "If Dr Worrall does not spell out an alternative, then he is nothing more than a flutter in a dovecote." *Rapport* believes that the NP "now has the opportunity to give the voters and the Worall-candidates new perspectives on tempo, style and content of the following phase of reform."

DIE TRANSVALER Approves NP Mandate

A page 12 editorial in Pretoria *Die Transvaler* in Afrikaans on 20 February says: "The wide spectrum of voters, with the exception of radical minorities to the extreme left and extreme right, will admit that P.W. Botha's mandate which he is going to ask for in the elections, namely negotiation for powersharing, is not only the most reasonable option but also the one without acceptable alternative." The paper believes that the election is about reaching a consensus on a just dispensation. "The shortest path to this goal has clearly been identified by the NP: negotiation with leaders of every other population group in the country about solutions to social problems and about help to create structures whereby different population groups have power to make decisions about themselves." *Rapport* believes this "is the key to a peaceful future for whites as well as other population groups in South Africa."

BEELD: NP Members To Blame

A page 10 editorial in Johannesburg *Beeld* in Afrikaans on 23 February says that the NP does not belong to P.W. Botha, the cabinet or government. "It belongs to the Nationalists themselves; to the people who since the establishment of the party have increasingly expressed their confidence in it." "Nationalists who now express their distrust of the party are judging themselves, too. If they allowed their leaders to move too slowly, or even in the wrong direction, then they have only themselves to blame." *Beeld* says that these people were never heard at congresses where they "could look their party colleagues in the eye and say what they really felt." The paper therefore sees in the present demostrations of some NP members a "great measure of political expediency."

THE NAMIBIAN: SADF Interfering in Politics

"The increasing interference of the military in the political and religious affairs of this country, is reason for great concern to the population of Namibia," says the page 12 editorial in Windhoek *The Namibian* in English on 20 February. "One of the many areas of this country bombarded with military propaganda, is the Caprivi region, and one of their most recent pamphlets, attributed merely to the 'security forces', and distributed in the dead of night, accuse a group such as the Namibian National Students Organisation (NANSO) of bringing 'instability' to the area." The functions of the military is to "curb insurgency and not to interfere in the political process in this country. Neither is it their function to participate in anti-SWAPO, Anti-NANSO, anti-Council of Churches propaganda on behalf of the interim government, and in so doing, achieve with the gun what the interim government itself is unable to achieve by political means: namely, the support of the population of this country."

Lister Critical of Cabinet Promises

Gwen Lister writes in her "Political Perspective" column on page 11 that "it is with some cynicism that one views the so called 'programme of action' of the Cabinet of the interim government for 1987. Apart from a few ominous tendencies towards what would appear to be a 'creeping internal settlement', other 'promises' are made in the statement, undertakings which may well come to nothing if the interim government's past record is seen in perspective." "Should the Constitutional Council finally decide on the name of 'Namibia' (and we were under the impression the Cabinet had decided this issue some time ago), then this would have to have the approval of the South African Parliament." "Once again we must emphasise that South Africa is the de facto ruler and occupier of Namibia. The interim government holds power by the 'grace' of that government. They can only go so far and no further if they wish to avoid a UDI [Unilateral Declaration of Independence]. And while it would appear the Cabinet would be quite happy to 'go it alone', it is doubtful whether South Africa, at this stage, will concur. We trust that good sense will prevail."

ZAMBIA

Kaunda Explains Reason for Releasing RSA Youths

MB251217 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] Zambia today released four South African youths who were detained under the preservation of public security. President Kaunda announced the release at a State House news conference this morning. Comrade Kaunda has said that Zambia is trying to establish a society based on love, peace, [word indistinct] and that he was convinced that the young men were coming as genuine tourists, but were approached by racist security men asking them to obtain military intelligence information for them.

He said the four — Rudolf Otterman, Randolph Keyser, Bernhardt Koch, and Duncan Vause — were subsequently detained under the preservation of public security, but their parents, Helena Otterman and Fred Keyser, together with their lawyer sought help from Dr Kaunda with an audience with them yesterday. Comrade Kaunda said he was convinced by this explanation of the parents, that their children were genuine tourists, but warned that they would receive no mercy if caught next time.